

Hafa Adai!

Blanco: Transportation remains a challenge in region. **PAGE 3**
Jury trial begins for man in alleged rape. **PAGE 7**

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WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2019

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By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Monsignor Louis Antonelli died yesterday at the Rota Health Center in Songsong surrounded by some of the parishioners that he shepherded during his close to five decades of serving the CNMI's southernmost island. He celebrated his 100th birthday only last Sept. 23, 2018.



Antonelli

See PALE on Page 4

DUE TO YUTU'S DEVASTATION
CUC power revenue dipped 63 pct. in Dec.

» From \$10.6M collected last Sept., only \$3.7M collected last Dec.

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
fergie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

From \$10.6 million collected last September—before Super Typhoon Yutu struck Saipan and Tinian—the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s revenue from power plummeted to \$3.7 million

See CUC on Page 4

Budget deal allows far less money for wall

By ANDREW TAYLOR and ALAN FRAM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congressional negotiators reached agreement to prevent a government shutdown and finance construction of new barriers along the U.S.-Mexico border, overcoming a

See BUDGET on Page 4

Pale Antonelli, 100



Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios is flanked by anti-violence advocates as he signs the teen domestic violence awareness and prevention month proclamation at Kagman High School.

ERWIN ENCINARES

1 in 3 teens are victims of abusive partner

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Nationwide statistics suggest that one in three teenagers are victims of abuse by a dating partner, ex-

ceeding other rates of violence among youth, while about 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year.

These numbers were provided by the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, or NMCASV, in a proclamation signing yesterday at Kagman High School

that declares February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

According to the proclamation, females aged 16 to 24 are more vulnerable to dating violence and experience it at a rate triple the

See TEENS on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

GVB and Skydive Guam Inc. celebrate skydiver Vasili Mlandinov's 26,000th jump.

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NATION

Snow slams the Northwest again and even Hawaii gets some. Snowfall.

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LIFE & STYLE

Private investigators working for Jeff Bezos concludes his mistress' brother was Enquirer source.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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‘OAG’s motions to quash subpoena an effort to delay case’

Zona said Epina has demonstrated a compelling need for the information, no other way to obtain it, and therefore Tenorio should be made to provide the information being requested.

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Blanco: Transportation remains a challenge in region

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The challenge of interisland travel in the region is among the issues the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures hopes to address, according to Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan).

Blanco, who was chosen to be the group's secretary at an APIL meeting in Guam last month, highlighted this difficulty that faces not just the CNMI but the entire region.

"Transportation remains a huge challenge. Airlift is a challenge for travel between the islands," Blanco, a second-term member of the CNMI House of Representatives from Precinct 3, told *Saipan Tribune*. "Movement of cargo, fuel, etc. are cost-prohibitive for the fragile economies of each of the island governments in the region. The costs take a significant bit of our annual budgets."

Most of the island governments of APIL members rely mostly on imported goods and other merchandise.

That's why APIL is so glad that some shipping companies are coming up with innovative means to improve their services, he said.

"Continued investments in new shipping technologies keeps evolving, and I am pleased that several of our shipping companies do invest in such to lower fuel costs, carry more cargo, and cut shipping delays," said Blanco.

Blanco is serving as the 59th secretary of APIL with Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan), his colleague at the CNMI House of Representatives, selected to be one of the group's board of directors.

Former CNMI House speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero was first selected to the same position as secretary during the APIL meeting in Palau last year.

"APIL officers and members decided to keep the CNMI serving as secretary for the 59th APIL. As you recall, former speaker Guerrero was selected as secretary during the 58th APIL in Palau," said Blanco.

"The body unanimously endorsed the CNMI to continue the capacity as an officer and secretary. I will just continue the term of former speaker [Deleon Guerrero] as APIL secretary," he added.

"I thank House Speaker [Blas Jonathan T.] Attao (R-Saipan), my colleagues at the Legislature, and APIL members for endorsing me to serve at the 59th APIL as secretary," Blanco added.

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Senate PUTC chair backs buried power lines

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) supports the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s proposal to bury the power system in key areas on Saipan and Tinian as part of CUC's resiliency plans after Super Typhoon Yutu.

Sablan, who chairs the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communication, said an underground power system is something that is proactive.

"If we start being proactive as opposed to reactive, I think we can save a lot of money," he said after CUC's board meeting last Thursday that he attended.

CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho discussed the proposal at the recent Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting.

He said the Federal Emergency Management Agency is privy to the proposal.

Camacho said they believe that, by securing the power system underground, CUC would be able to quickly reenergize critical areas.

Sablan also expressed the need for CUC and the CNMI government to comply with the federal court-mandated stipulated orders for CUC projects.

"We need to ensure we have some progress in answering those orders," he said.

On the restoration efforts after Yutu's devastation, the senator is hats off to CUC, its staff and those off-island crews like linemen for making the restoration "very quick."

"I think we're almost 100 percent power," said Sablan, citing news reports that CUC is looking at the end of this month to complete the restoration efforts.

He said one has to also acknowledge that Yutu is not the last storm that will hit the CNMI, so CUC will have to start looking into more effective utility services.

Sablan said the underground utilities project is going to be a long process and take a lot of funding "but we need to start to think about it and start moving toward it," adding that CUC needs to provide consistent power, water, wastewater services.

The Senate will tentatively have its first PUTC committee meeting on Feb. 19.

"From there, we look at

legislation. We're trying to craft legislation that will improve the services and we can start having a more organized meeting with CUC," he said.

Sablan underscored that it is not only the Legislature and CUC and other agencies that should know what's going on, or what the plans are, but the community should also be kept in the loop "be-

cause we are all stakeholders. It's the backbone of our economy."

Sablan said he attended the CUC board meeting Thursday to see what their issues are. He said he is aware that CUC is facing a lot of issues and, as the PUTC chairman, he wants to make sure that he gets all the background information and gain more knowledge of what's going on.

Sablan said it's imperative for him as the PUTC chairman

to keep an open channel with CUC, its management, the board, the staff as well.

Sablan was a CUC employee for 10 years. He started as a laboratory assistant in 2000. He eventually became a laboratory technician. He left CUC in 2012.

"Being a former CUC employee, I am thankful and honored to be here in my official capacity, to act as a conduit for CUC to the Legislature," he said.

High risk of rip currents

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a trade-wind swell will continue to produce a high risk of rip currents along east facing reefs the next few days.

That means there is a high risk of rip currents on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota through Friday night.

Along east facing reefs,

surf of 8 to 10 feet will maintain a high risk of rip currents through at least Friday night.

The public is being advised to avoid venturing near reefs and beaches, especially those facing east. Strong rip currents will be life threatening. If you become caught in a rip current, remain calm, swim parallel to shore then back toward the beach when possible. Heed the advice of lifeguards, beach patrol flags, and signs. **(EOC)**

BUDGET

From Page 1

late-stage hang-up over immigration enforcement issues that had threatened to scuttle the talks.

Republicans were desperate to avoid another bruising shutdown. They tentatively agreed Monday night to far less money for President Donald Trump's border wall than the White House's \$5.7 billion wish list, settling for a figure of nearly \$1.4 billion, according to congressional aides. The funding measure is

through the fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30.

The agreement means 55 miles of new fencing—constructed through existing designs such as metal slats instead of a concrete wall—but far less than the 215 miles the White House demanded in December. The fencing would be built in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas.

"With the government being shut down, the specter of another shutdown this close, what brought us back together I thought tonight was we didn't want that to happen" again, said Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman

Richard Shelby, R-Ala.

Details won't be officially released until Tuesday, but the pact came in time to alleviate any threat of a second partial government shutdown this weekend. Aides revealed the details under condition of anonymity because the agreement is tentative.

"Our staffs are just working out the details," said House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey, D-N.Y.

The pact also includes increases for new technologies such as advanced screen-

ing at border entry points, humanitarian aid sought by Democrats, and additional customs officers.

This weekend, Shelby pulled the plug on the talks over Democratic demands to limit immigrant detentions by federal authorities, frustrating some of his fellow negotiators, but Democrats yielded ground on that issue in a fresh round of talks on Monday.

Asked if Trump would back the deal, Shelby said: "We believe from our dealings with them and the latitude they've given us, they will support it. We certainly hope so."

TEENS

From Page 1

national average. While the national average was not disclosed, the proclamation noted that one in three teenagers are victims of an abusive partner, while an estimated 1.5 million high school students experience physical abuse from a dating partner within a single year nationwide.

Because of this alarm-

ing frequency and numbers, Kagman High School principal Leila Staffler said it is important to educate teenagers as early as possible to not carry over bad habits into adulthood.

"It's an issue that does exist," she said, adding that it exists whenever teens start exploring relationships.

"Having awareness of what a healthy relationship [looks like] is really important so that they would start their

lives with healthy relationships rather than experiencing unhealthy relationships, only to find out later in life that...it wasn't [healthy at all]," she said.

She noted that the proclamation is a way for the community to break the cycle of violence.

In a separate interview, Maisie Tenorio, executive director of the NMCASV, noted that she brought the proclamation signing to the students

themselves, to raise awareness. Last year, the proclamation was signed at Marianas High School.

"This is an opportunity for us and for the students to make their voices heard because this is an issue and it's a time, moment, and opportunity for us adults to listen about what they are going through," she said.

According to Tenorio, the school for the next proclamation signing has yet to be chosen.

CUC

From Page 1

last December—a 63-percent decrease due to the typhoon's devastation.

In her PowerPoint presentation to CUC board last Thursday about CUC collections for first quarter of fiscal year 2019, acting chief financial officer Corina Magofna said the \$3.7 million

collected in December 2018 is the lowest power revenue CUC has ever had in the last 16 months, or since October 2017.

According to Magofna's presentation, the power collection in October 2018 reached \$5.3 million and dropped to \$4.2 million in November 2018.

CUC started to recover in January 2019, with its power billing collection going up to

\$4 million.

CUC expects its power billing collection for this month to significantly increase.

Yutu struck Saipan and Tinian last Oct. 24 and 25.

For water, CUC collected \$763,000 last September and \$796,000 last October. The collections then dropped to \$461,000 last November, and \$665,000 last December.

Last month, CUC's water revenue collection improved

to \$901,000.

As of Feb. 7, 2019, CUC's Yutu-related expenses has already reached \$11.7 million, incurred from October 2018 to January 2019—a four-month period.

Magofna said CUC, however, received \$8.9 million in reimbursement for typhoon-related expenses from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, bringing the unpaid balance to \$2.8 million.

PALE

From Page 1

The Diocese of Chalan Kanoa has yet to issue an official statement. A wake and rosary were held as Antonelli's remains will be buried today as he wished.

More popularly known on Rota as "Pale Antonelli," he was a member of the Congregation of the Sacred Stigmata founded by Gaspar Bertoni and was among the second batch of Stigmatines that arrived in the island of Guam in the late 1940s.

He was part of the Stigmatines that were assigned to Guam after Bishop Apollinaris Baumgartner, OFM Cap., asked for priests that would staff the Father Duenas Memorial School minor seminary. He later helped establish the Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja on Rota in 1989.

Messages of condolences and thanks flooded the social media platform Facebook, and most of those messages were from parishioners who are not only from the island of Rota, but even those who are from Rota and are currently in the U.S. mainland.

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) told *Saipan Tribune* that the people of Rota are thankful for the Pennsylvania-native Antonelli for making the island his second home.

"We just received the sad news that Pale Antonelli passed away this [yesterday] evening," said Manglona. "Pale lived his priesthood with all his heart, not caring about being recognized, yet his light shone bright for all to see, from Pennsylvania and all over the mainland to Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The people of Rota had a deep love for him."

The Senate gave a resolution, S.R. 16-22 introduced by Manglona, to Antonelli in 2008 honoring the priest for his years of serving the people of Rota.

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) said the people of Rota were saddened upon hearing the news of Antonelli's pass-

ing "Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. The people of Rota will forever remember the many happy memories that we had spent with him."

"He has served the people of Rota for many years and what he has done to us will continue to linger in our minds. It is a sad news, may his soul peacefully rest in the arms of God," added Santos in a telephone interview.

Santos said the people of Rota will be forever grateful for the decades of service that Antonelli wholeheartedly gave. "He brought the people closer to God. Monsignor Antonelli is a priest that will really reach out to the people who could not come to church. Monsignor Antonelli would come to you to read you the Gospel and share his homily because he believes that is his calling. That is his one way to bring people closer to the Lord."

Fr. Ike Ayuyu, in a Facebook post, also conveyed his condolences. "I extend my sincere condolences and prayers to his immediate family, the people of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, and most especially the people of Rota whom he served practically all his life as a priest. Thank you Monsignor Antonelli."

Alys Mundo, a Rota resident who is currently in Salem, Oregon, said the people of Rota will be forever grateful for his guidance. "Rest in love and peace, Monsignor Antonelli. Rota will always keep you in our hearts and prayers. We will miss you. We are blessed to have you in our lives. Forever grateful. Please watch over us. Your legacy will live on. *Adios, Pale.*"

Antonelli was relieved in 2015 of pastoral administrative duties by then-Chalan Kanoa Diocese apostolic administrator and now Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez. The decision was made due to Antonelli's health, who was then 97 years old.

Rev. Fr. Manuel F. Lim replaced Antonelli as the pastor of the San Francisco de Borja and San Isidro parishes on Rota.

Rota delegation looks into medical, K9 assistance

The Rota Legislative Delegation is asking for an update on the medical subsistence that their medical referral patients are entitled to and the interisland K-9 unit that would help prevent the entry of illegal substances to the CNMI's southernmost island.

Delegation chair Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) recently wrote Finance Sec-

retary Larrisa Larson a list of Rota's medical referral patients who are lawfully entitled to medical subsistence as of January 2019.

That entitlement is outlined in Section 2 (a) of Rota Local Law 20-8 and R.L.L. 20-10.

R.L.L. 20-8 appropriates \$1.4 million to Rota pursuant to Public Law 18-56 or the Exclusive Gaming License Act.

PSS honors its school bus drivers

The CNMI Public School System and Board of Education honored its school bus drivers and staff on Monday with a proclamation signing that kicked off the Pupil Transportation Week.

BOE chair Janice A. Tenorio signed the Pupil Transportation Week proclamation on Monday at the PSS Office of Pupil Transportation in Lower Base.

"...Wave at them and thank them," she reminded those who showed up to witness the proclamation signing, recognizing the key role school bus drivers play for PSS.

According to Pupil Transportation director Shawn San Nicolas, his office transports about 3,000 students to and from the nearest bus stops to their assigned schools on a daily basis. He noted that, on Saipan alone, there are 16 regular school bus drivers, six mini-bus drivers, five conductors, and one mechanic.

Ever since Super Typhoon Yutu in October last year, San Nicolas' team has also been assisting transport students

who temporarily reside in storm shelters.

For this week, OPT will have "a bunch of activities... in the schools," San Nicolas said, with activities ranging from class discussions on bus safety to card-making for the bus drivers.

"This week...is to honor all the hard work and sacrifices the people [in the Office of Pupil Transportation] make daily," he said. "Even after the storm, while most of the government was down, [the bus drivers] were already coming in to transfer shelterees...to assist in the recovery efforts."

In separate remarks at the proclamation-signing, Sen. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan) expressed a wish to be the conduit for the OPT to the Legislature.

"I want to be one of your conduits to the Legislature. I want to be the channel for you guys to work through," he said. He assured Education Commissioner Glenn Muña that his doors were open for talks on how the Legislature could assist OPT. *(Erwin Encinares)*

In a memorandum to the RLD members, Senate legal counsel Jose A. Bermudes reviewed the appropriation for the medical subsistence allowance and disbursed funds and determined that the MSA is owed a balance of \$73,636.

In a separate letter to Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero and CNMI Division of Customs director Jose Mafnas, Manglona said Public Law 19-86, or the Inter-island Ports of Entry Drug Detection Act, was signed into law due

to the prevalence of illegal substances like methamphetamine or ice in the CNMI.

"The [CNMI] Legislature believes that drugs continue to harm communities and destroy families. P.L. 19-86 was passed to mandate [Customs] to help [DPS] in its strategies to crack down on drugs as DPS cannot fight this 'war on ice' alone. Through this law, [Customs] must come together in collaboration to truly make an impact in the effort to eradicate drugs in our borders," said Manglona. P.L. 19-86 mandates the lo-

cal Customs to have K-9 drug detection units for all inter-island commuter flight and sea-ports entries in order to continue the fight against illegal drugs in the Commonwealth.


"Currently, [Customs] enforces our borders through the use of K-9 units solely on Saipan. [Rota Customs'] K-9 program, although only for incoming Guam flights, has not been operational after its only drug canine was transferred to Saipan back in 2012," said Manglona.

"The use of K-9 units to conduct drug detection [on]

Rota and Tinian would deter the smuggling of drugs using inter-island commuter routes," he added.

Manglona said that the delegation has appropriated \$24,000 for a K-9 certification training of the dog handler as stated in R.L.L. 20-8, and they are hoping to get an update on the K-9 unit program from DPS and Customs. *(Jon Perez)*

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The Charity Golf Classic involves several community partners to raise awareness for the causes that are selected, in a fun way. Our team members give generously their time, money and skills to actively support their passion for community engagement and assisting non-profit organizations achieve their goals and purpose.

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munity a place where employees want to work, guests want to visit, our neighbors want to live and investors want to invest.

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The selection of the non-profit organization will be decided based on the votes cast by the leadership committee members of the hotel. The information pack must be submitted on or before 5pm, Friday, Feb. 22. *(PR)*



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PUBLIC NOTICE

02/13/19

Notice for Public Comment

Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

| Program Year/ IDIS No. | Program: | Activity Name: | Subrecipient: | Approved Budget: | Proposed Reprogramming Amount: | Proposed Revised Project Budget: | Current IDIS Funded Amount: |
|------------------------|----------|---|---|---------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2015/643 | CDBG | Renovation of the Koblerville Fire Station (Project Completed) | Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS) | \$154,940.00 | (\$31,355.00) | N/A | \$0.00 |
| 2015/641 | CDBG | Rehabilitation of the Kagman Community Park (Project Completed) | Department of Land and Natural Resources | \$150,000.00 | (\$22,129.79) | N/A | \$0.00 |
| 2016/673 | CDBG | CDBG Planning and Administrative Cost | NMHC | \$196,969.20 | (\$70,976.69) | N/A | \$70,976.69 |
| 2017/679 | CDBG | CDBG Planning and Administrative Cost | NMHC | \$202,995.90 | (\$5,932.27) | N/A | \$125,061.98 |
| 2017/678 | CDBG | Rehabilitation of the Tinian Youth Center | Tinian Mayors Office | \$43,510.00 | (\$17,446.00) | N/A | \$43,510.00 |
| | | Total Reprogrammed from Activities: | | \$748,415.10 | (\$147,839.75) | | |
| 2018/676 | CDBG | Koblerville Youth Learning Center Expansion and Enhancement Project | Office of Youth Affairs/ Office of the Governor | \$435,370.00 | \$39,270.75 | \$474,640.75 | \$435,370.00 |
| 2018/677 | CDBG | Rehabilitation and Expansion of the Kagman Community Center | Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DCCA) | \$323,081.00 | \$108,569.00 | \$431,650.00 | \$323,081.00 |
| | | Total Reprogrammed to Activities: | | | \$147,839.75 | | |

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) that we publish a "Public Notice" on reprogramming of funds over \$50,001.00. Therefore, comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central office located in Garapan, Saipan on or before March 15, 2019, no later than 10 a.m. You may contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at (670)234-6866/9447.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 19-009

Opening Date: Monday, February 11, 2019
Closing Date: Friday, February 15, 2019

Chief Financial Officer (Notice of Closure)

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") is seeking for a qualified Chief Financial Officer ("CFO"). CUC is a public utility corporation located on the island of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI")—a United States territory in the northwestern Pacific Ocean.

The CNMI is a tropical paradise of fourteen islands. In the CNMI you can escape to a place of magnificent beaches and crystal clear aqua waters, and rich history. Saipan offers year-round outdoor activities, world class diving and golfing, international shopping, a range of ethnic restaurants and a cacophony of indigenous and international cultures.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITY OFFERED:

Reporting directly to CUC's Executive Director ("ED") or designee, the Chief Financial Officer ("CFO") works directly with the Deputy Executive Director ("DED"). The CFO fills a position required by the Stipulated Order ("SO") of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case No. CV 08-0051. The Corporation is seeking a dynamic, experienced professional with strong collaborative leadership skills and demonstrated expertise in all areas of municipal and utility finance.

- Responsible for the overall accounting, budgeting, and financial operations of CUC.
- Supervises financial professionals and support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staffs are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Maintains the financial and budget records and accounts for monthly and annual reporting of CUC.
- Performs financial, budget and rate analyses of operations and revenues; makes recommendations for adjustments to rates.
- Develops, implements and enforces financial and budget policies and procedures.
- Directing preparation, analysis, implementation, and monitoring of the utilities' financial reporting and budget process.
- Prepares complex financial and budget reports and special reports as requested by the Board and ED supervising and interpreting study results, including cost of service studies.
- Schedules and coordinates annual audits with independent contractors.
- Prepares monthly and an annual financial report of the financial condition of CUC.
- Plans, implements and monitors short and long-term goals for the department and CUC.
- Debt management, issuance and administration.
- Other duties of a similar nature or level as assigned or required.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Successful candidates for CUC's Chief Financial Officer must have the following:

- Education:
 - Bachelor's degree in accounting, economics, financial management, public or business administration from a United States accredited institution or one with equivalent accreditation.
- Experience:
 - Ten (10) years of professional experience in governmental or financial accounting, including experience in a supervisory and/or management position.
- Certification and Licensing:
 - A Certified Public Accountant or Certified Management Accountant is required.
 - Ability to obtain and maintain a CNMI driver's license of the appropriate class upon hire is required.
- Must demonstrate the following:
 - Thorough knowledge of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, as well as Financial Accounting Standards Board and Government Accounting Standards Board pronouncements and interpretations, auditing principles, and utility rate structures and rate setting principles and methods;
 - Working knowledge of automated financial systems and programs to manage all aspects of reporting, personnel management and training;
 - General knowledge of utility operations, debt collection practices, and limitations.
- Knowledge of:
 - Supervisory principles;
 - Managerial and leadership principles;
 - Generally Accepted Accounting Principles or other applicable laws, rules and regulations;
 - Budgetary principles;
 - Financial principles;
 - Mathematical principles.
- Skill in:
 - Monitoring and evaluating staff;
 - Prioritizing and assigning work to staff;
 - Applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations;
 - Applying accounting procedures and principles;
 - Developing and implementing procedures and standards;
 - Analyzing accounting transactions;
 - Preparing and analyzing financial statements, budgets and reports;
 - Establishing internal control and compliance systems and information systems;
 - Conducting cost-benefit analysis;
 - Preparing annual reports;
 - Estimating costs for projects;
 - Analyzing and setting rates;
 - Using computers and related software applications;
 - Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

LOCATION: Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY INFORMATION: \$100,000.00 per annum, Exempt
 (Based on credentials and specialized experience and whether applicant has a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Certified Management Accountant (CMA) designation in a U.S. state, U.S. territory, U.S. commonwealth, and/or the District of Columbia)

POSITION: One (1).

CONTRACT: Two-year; subject to renewal.

RELOCATION EXPENSES: If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Receipts will be required for justification. Other conditions may be applicable.

SUBMISSION PROCESS: Please submit (1) a cover letter, (2) a resume, (3) a list of references, and (4) a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

1. United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail®:

Human Resource Office
 Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
 P.O. Box 501220
 Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA

*If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" email "or" drop off your package.

2. Fax: 670-235-5131

3. Email: employment.applications@cucgov.org

4. Drop Off: Drop off your package at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or Rota Administration Office.

POLICIES: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

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Businesses told to submit Labor reports

The CNMI Department of Labor announced on Thursday that all businesses shall submit a quarterly report consisting of a Total Workforce Listing and Workforce Plan. In addition, the business must submit an annual Corporate Report and Business License, upon renewal.

"We have publicly announced these requirements to the business community for more than a year, noting the importance of reliable data regarding the CNMI labor workforce," said Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente.

Effective immediately, a request for a Certificate of Good Standing, CNMI OSHA Certification, and Job Vacancy Announcement Certification will be denied for any business who fails to submit an updated Total Workforce Listing and Workforce Plan for each quarter in 2018, and for the current year 2019.

In an intradepartmental memo, Benavente ordered the Division of Employment Services, Division of Enforcement and Compliance, and CNMI OSHA Consultation Program to immediately cease issuance of any certificates if a company has not complied with all reporting requirements. Additionally, submission of an incomplete or incorrect Total Workforce Listing and Workforce Plan will be rejected by Labor and returned to the employer for revision.

According to the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code 80-20.1-505(b), "Each business employer shall report quarterly, as of the last day of the calendar quarter and within the time limits for filing the business gross receipts tax return, the number and classification of employees for whom wages were paid during the quarter."

The information is collected

and aggregated by the CNMI DOL for statistical and reporting purposes. A Workforce Plan identifies positions occupied by foreign workers and includes a timetable for replacing non-U.S. workers with qualified U.S. workers.

Benavente stated that the CNMI DOL is moving from a traditional paper file system to a digital document management system in an effort to reduce costs and eliminate waste.

"Businesses may email their Quarterly Documents to documents@marianaslabor.net. The Department of Labor is trying to save the businesses time and costs by avoiding the use of paper printouts," she noted.

For more information about the reporting requirement or for assistance in filling out the forms, businesses may contact the Division of Employment Services at 664-3190 or 322-0996. **(PR)**



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the Commonwealth Cancer Association support meeting on Thursday, Feb. 14, starting at 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. **(PR)**

Notice to all weightlifting athletes

To all persons interested in competing in international weightlifting competitions, CNMI Weightlifting has recently become a member of the International Weightlifting Federation. A meeting to discuss the benefits and requirements of IWF will be held today, Feb. 13, 2019, starting at 6:30pm at the NMPASI conference room.

In order to meet certain deadlines set by IWF, current and prospective weightlifters should attend this meeting and bring with them a copy of their passport and a photo (face of athlete only). Registration forms can be obtained in advance from Jeanne Rayphand at jeannesq@yahoo.com. Registration forms will also be available for completion at the meeting.

For more information, contact John Davis by email at johnhdavisjr@gmail.com. **(PR)**

SSHS report cards out Friday

Saipan Southern High School will be releasing report cards on Friday, Feb. 15, 2019, to the students. Also, SSHS has returned to full-day schedule starting Monday, Feb. 11,

2019. Should there be any questions, call the school at 664-4000 or 783-8988. **(PR)**

FOA membership meeting

To all members and friends of Friends of the Arts, come and join us for a special Valentine's Day occasion this Thursday, Feb. 14, at the Everest Kitchen Restaurant. Come and enjoy a delicious Nepalese dinner and musical entertainment by the Marianas High School Glee Club and the Community Choir, plus a special magic show by Neil Fama.

Meet the FOA board and members. The dinner cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for children under 11. The Everest Kitchen is located on Micro Beach Road between the hospital corner light and the Beach Road fire station corner, next to the Bridge Capital office. Please join us at 6:30pm.

You do not have to be a member of Friends of the Arts to join us for this special evening. Please make a reservation by contacting Frank Gibson by e-mail at flgibson@yahoo.com or by phone or text at 287-7476. **(PR)**

High risk of rip currents until today

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a large trade-wind swell will continue to produce a high risk of rip currents along east facing reefs through the middle of this week. That means a high risk of rip currents on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota through tonight. Along east facing reefs, breaking surf of 7 to 9 feet will

maintain a high risk of rip currents through at least tonight.

The public is being advised to avoid venturing near reefs and beaches, especially those facing east. Strong rip currents will be life threatening. If you become caught in a rip current, remain calm, swim parallel to shore, then back toward the beach when possible, heed the advice of lifeguards, beach patrol flags, and signs. **(PR)**

Military to conduct trainings

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Marine Corps and Air Force will conduct training at Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- 7am to 9:30pm, Feb. 12-14
- 11:30am to 6:45pm, Feb. 15

The Air Force will also conduct training from 8am to 8pm today, Feb. 13, at Warning Area 12 and Warning Area 517.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. F

W-12 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-12 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles and laser exercises.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks will be open for public use. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. **(PR)**

Jury trial begins for man in alleged rape

The jury trial for a man accused of rape began Monday with the selection of a panel of jury members and opening statements.

Over 60 members of the public showed up on Monday after being summoned to jury duty. The Superior Court selected eight individuals to serve on the panel of jurors for the trial of Manolo Romolor.

Romolor is being charged with sexual assault in the first degree and disturbing the peace after an alleged rape incident that happened in November 2016.

After selecting the jurors, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja ordered both parties and the jury to return after a recess to start with the trial.

Road closure in Chalan Kanoa

The southbound lanes in Chalan Kanoa fronting Saipan Watch Repair was closed beginning yesterday, Feb. 12, and will remain closed today, Feb. 13, from 8am to 5pm as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s contractor, Hawaiian Rock Products, will be making the necessary road repairs that were damaged during a water line leak repair.

For the safety of the men and women working at the site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution and

Office of the Attorney General's Teri Tenorio, who represents the government, said in her opening statement Monday that what Romolor did was rob the victim of her right to make a choice.

"This case is about how a very important personal choice was taken away by the defendant, a person a young woman considered a friend when he sexually assaulted her," she said. "The defendant did not give [the victim] a choice, but rather made one of his own."

Tenorio also mentioned that the assault took place on a bed that was being shared by two other adults, one who allegedly bore witness to the assault, and their children.

Romolor's lawyer, Bruce

take alternative routes when traveling through the area as both the southbound lanes will be closed.

CUC apologizes for the inconvenience it may cause and will continue to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (CUC)

Berline, said in his opening statement that it wasn't about depriving the victim of choice, but more of the victim trying to hide her embarrassment of getting caught in the act by covering up the incident by saying it was rape.

Berline cited the story of a girl in a similar case who was devastated and embarrassed by her actions and blamed it on another person just to save herself.

"That is what the evidence in this case will show you. You will hear from the government's main witness [the victim]. ...She wanted to get drunk, that was her goal and she got sick. Later...Manolo and the victim had sex. She starts moaning and this wakes up [the witness] who is inches away from her, a mother of three kids who are just mere feet away. ...[The victim] is embarrassed and full of regret for getting caught having sex in a room with two adults and three kids. In order to save her dignity and to save herself from embarrassment, [the victim] blames it on Manolo," he said.

After the opening statements and a brief examination and cross-examination of the government's first witness, preliminary investigator Paul Ichihara, the trial was put on recess and continued yesterday. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

MENU

Freshly Baked Petit French Baguette / Herb Butter Mousse

1st Course - Appetizer
Herb Butter Mousse Appetizer
Salmon Ceviche / Maza Harina Tortilla / Pico de Gallo

2nd Course - Soup
Gazpacho (Cold Tomato Soup) or Vichyssoise

3rd Course - 1st Entree
Pan Seared Scallops / Saffron Sauce / Truffle Oil

4th Course - Salad
Caesar Salad in Parmesan Crust

5th Course
Lime Sherbet

6th Course - Main Entree
Surf & Turf (Steak and Baked Lobster)

7th Course - Dessert
Chocolate Lava Cake / Vanilla Ice Cream / Strawberry Coulis
Coffee or Tea

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February 14, 2019 (Thurs)
5:30pm - 9:00pm

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Romeo Malasarte, third from left, poses for a photo with family and installing officer Felix Mendoza last Saturday evening.

ERWIN ENCINARES

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A new set of officers were installed into the Emon Masonic Lodge on Saipan at the Grandvrio Resort last Saturday evening.

Romeo D. Malasarte now leads

the Emon Lodge on Saipan as the new most worshipful master of the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines. Also installed were Joel I. Subang as senior warden, Leo P. Canedo as junior warden, Joselito C. Espino as secretary, Wilfredo Ching as treasurer, and Daniel E. Banez as

auditor. The organization also swore in new members.

"In this coming year, let us guide those who desire admission, serving as a faithful and trusted brother. Let us teach those willing to learn, so that they might do the same for another; and let us participate and lead those

who look to us, so that they might follow in our footsteps and later seek our counsel," said Malasarte in his brief remarks.

Felix Mendoza, from the Philippines, served as the installing officer for Malasarte and the newly sworn officers.

According to Mendoza, the close-knit relationships and camaraderie of the Emon Lodge will guide it well in its future activities. He cited as an example the Philippine Masons for leading outreach programs each year, such as donating wheelchairs to indigenous children.

Malasarte noted during his remarks that his motto for this year is to "let your light shine so that others can see their way out of the dark."

"We as Freemasons can strive to be better men," Malasarte said. "We say that Masonry makes good men better, so let us follow through with this in our everyday lives and our actions at lodge."

Atkins Kroll is ahead of the curve with 2020 Toyota Corolla

TAMUNING, Guam—The future is now. Atkins Kroll looks beyond the present to welcome the newly redesigned 2020 Toyota Corolla. With much to offer in this completely reimaged car, why wait? Celebrate 2020 with Atkins Kroll as the new Corolla debuts on Saipan this Saturday, Feb. 16.

Born in 1966 with 44 million sold, the Corolla remains the best-loved car in history, thanks to its renowned dependability and affordability. With such a strong foundation, the Corolla has a large fan base to impress with its cutting edge 12th-generation reincarnation.

"The standard that's not standard" is the philosophy that shapes the 2020 Corolla—a slogan that competitors should heed. While maintaining the Corolla's inherent practicality that appeals to all walks of life, this new model reaches higher to achieve a modern, more engaging driving experience.

Outwardly, the once conservative Corolla now takes on a robust body style that makes for a confident and athletic stance. Most noticeable upgrades are due to the adherence of the Toyota New Global Architecture. For the driver, this means more comfort and control, ultra-refined performance and better visibility all around, thanks to the precise measurements in accordance with the TNGA platform.

A redesigned interior presents an open atmosphere, a quiet cabin, and sophisticated technology. Further, the formidable armor that is Toyota Safety Sense 2.0 comes standard with every Corolla sedan.

"The 2020 Corolla is anything but your average compact sedan. With the celebrated reliability of its predecessors paired with striking upgrades, we're proud to offer Saipan's drivers the spearhead of future sedans," said Glen Perez, Atkins Kroll sales manager.

Saipan residents can experience the future of the sedan segment with the official debut of the 2020 Toyota Corolla on Saturday, Feb. 16 in the Toyota showroom.

For more information, contact Ernie Galito at (671) 648-8400 or ernie.galito@AKguam.com. (PR)

Volunteerism of Guam Navy Commands honored

ASAN, Guam—Given the opportunity to enrich and uplift the island's youth, the volunteers of three Guam-based Navy commands were recently recognized by the Navy Community Service Program for their superb outreach efforts in the local community.

Winning the 2018 Personal Excellence Partnership Flagship Award in the large overseas command category were the 390 volunteers of U.S. Naval Hospital Guam, who provided 3,154 volunteer hours; and, taking the small overseas command category award, were the 41 volunteers of Naval Airborne Weapons Maintenance Unit 1, who provided 589 volunteer hours. The submarine tender USS *Frank Cable* received honorable mention for their sailors' 266 volunteer hours.

USNH Guam executive officer Capt. Steven Kewish expressed how excited his command's volunteers become when community service opportunities arise, and the



File photo shows Lt. J.G. Maria Jarett, right, and hospital corpsman 3rd Class Melissa Malavemaria preparing to take children from the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam Child Development Center on an ambulance tour in March 2018. Jarett captures the children's attention by demonstrating the loud ambulance siren.

U.S. NAVAL HOSPITAL GUAM PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

value of partnership.

"We have volunteer activities all the time and we never have a short-

age of people signing up for them," he said. "It just strengthens the relationship we have with the local community, and this is a good thing for everybody."

NAWMU-1 commanding officer Cmdr. Stephen Folsom shared how good ethics and teamwork pay off.

"This was accomplished by acting in the highest ethical manner, while working with each other and the community at large," he said. "Volunteers showed compassion for the personal and spiritual wellbeing of the community and helped others strive for positive change and personal improvement."

According to *Frank Cable* commanding officer Capt. Jeff Bierley, his sailors are at their best when they selflessly devote themselves to the development and wellbeing of the next generation.

"We believe in investing in the en-



A sailor assigned to USS *Frank Cable* plants a tree during a tree planting event with the Guam Department of Agriculture Forestry and Soil Division in Merizo last Oct. 6, 2018.

USS FRANK CABLE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

couragement, development, coaching and mentoring of local youth," he said. "Sailors take seriously the opportunity to enhance and transform local children's lives by productive engagement and by providing positive role models that encompass the values of honor, courage and commitment."

Among the wide variety of activities the command volunteers participated in were sports coaching, student mentoring, career day presentations, judging science fair projects, tutoring, environmental stewardship and humanitarian aid for various local nonprofit organizations.

The annual Navy Personal Excellence Partnership Flagship Award distinguishes commands that have gone above and beyond to volunteer in community service activities that promote academics, life skills and civic education in the youth population. (PR)



File photo shows sailors assigned to Naval Airborne Weapons Maintenance Unit 1 participating in a dive cleanup in waters off a cemetery in Agat last March 14, 2018. The cleanup yielded 17 bags of debris.

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The nation faces many problems. A crisis at the border isn't one of them

The American people face a broad range of challenges these days, some of which can genuinely be considered crises. An opioid-fueled overdose epidemic, for instance, that killed some 70,000 people in each of the last two years. Soaring healthcare costs and an insufficient safety net to keep those who fall ill from also falling into bankruptcy. Massive federal debt from ill-conceived tax cuts. Ongoing wars.

Not included on that list are illegal immigration and border security. Do we have problems on those fronts? Definitely. Are they crises? Not even close. Yet that is how the president sought to portray them Tuesday during his State of the Union speech.

The president's dark view of asylum-seekers and migrants who are in the country illegally isn't new, of course. He built his political house on a foundation of bigotry and fear. And on Tuesday he added a few more bricks to it. "The lawless state of our southern border is a threat to the safety, security and financial well-being of all Americans," the president said. "We have a moral duty to create an immigration system that protects the lives and jobs of our citizens." Oh, please. "Lawless state?" Nearly 17,000 agents are assigned to the border, augmented by the president's deployment of more than 4,000 soldiers. Crime is generally down in border cities—as it is for much of the nation—and estimates of how many people are entering the country illegally are down, also. The crisis is in Trump's head.

Yes, the president paid lip service to legal immigration in his speech. "Legal immigrants enrich our nation and strengthen our society in countless ways," Trump said. "I want people to come into our country in the largest numbers ever, but they have to come in legally." Yet despite this pabulum, his policies push in the opposite direction. He has slashed the number of refugees allowed in to a record low of 30,000 (down from a cap of 110,000 in 2017), and broadly throttled back the flow of legal immigrants. People from predominately Muslim countries have borne most of the impact, a disturbing throw-back to the nation's history of denying entry to people based not on their individual attributes, but out of broad prejudice.

Few would argue that the immigration system is fine the way it is. Immigration law is confusing and byzantine. We need a sober debate over what our overarching goals should be, and a streamlined bureaucratic process for getting us there. Should we issue fewer family reunification visas and increase merit-based admissions? What are the optimal levels of immigration to feed the economy and offset our declining birth rate? What steps can be taken, including border security measures, to discourage illegal immigration and encourage people to follow a rational set of rules? Let's debate these issues and others to forge compromises framed with the best interests of the nation's future in mind, and without the hyperbole that portrays immigration as some sort of existential threat to American culture.

(c)2019 Los Angeles Times



Congress: Listen to young people on gun violence

President Donald Trump neglected to mention gun violence in his State of the Union address.

The following day, the congressional stalemate over what to do about the killing and mayhem played out at a House Judicial Committee hearing on gun violence. Most of the news coverage focused on a disgustingly misleading diatribe from Florida Republican Rep. Matt Gaetz, who tried to use the hearings as a forum to push for a wall at the U.S. southern border.

Overshadowed were the most powerful two speakers to testify before the committee. They were two young women, who happen to be diametrically opposed in their views on gun rights. Both spoke hurriedly, reading statements in the five minutes they were allowed to speak, too brief a span to describe the events that changed their lives.

Savannah Lindquist, 24, testified about what happened to her in the fall of 2016. She was in her senior year at her dream university, she said, finishing up studies in her dream major. Her prospects as a first-generation college graduate looked bright.

Then she was raped. The violence left her "completely shattered." Lindquist did what so many other college women do after they are sexually assaulted. She dropped out, fleeing not only to her childhood home but to her childhood bedroom. Isolated and deeply traumatized, she gained 100 pounds and her hair began to fall out.

Lindquist, a gun owner, told the committee that she had obeyed the laws of her state and did not carry a concealed firearm on campus.

"Because of so-called common-sense gun control laws, I was left defenseless that night," Lindquist testified.

She asked the committee at least to consider the concerns of conscientious gun owners, people who might be negatively affected by new restrictions.

"I obeyed the law as a responsible gun owner, and it ended in me being raped," she said.

Aalayah Eastmond, 18, spoke before Lindquist.

Her story is likely more familiar. She's a senior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

Nearly a year ago, on February 14, 2018, a gunman killed 17 students and faculty at her school. Eastmond survived by hiding under the dead body of her classmate.

One moment Nicholas Dworet was her partner during their

By MARY SANCHEZ

The Kansas City Star

Readers can reach Mary Sanchez at msanchezcolumn@gmail.com and follow her on Twitter @msanchezcolumn.



studies of the Holocaust in their fourth period class. The next, he was a lifeless shield that protected Eastmond as "bullets riddled my classmates," she said.

Eastmond told of how her mother, consumed by the stress, miscarried a baby shortly after her daughter so narrowly escaped death.

She accurately noted that African-American and Latino communities suffer the highest rates of deaths by gun homicide. She lost an uncle who was shot and killed in Brooklyn at the age of 18.

"Rather than listen to special interests, I urge you to listen to America's young people," Eastmond told the Judiciary Committee.

Lindquist had a message too. "In this debate, it is about emotion," she said. Facts and viewpoints like hers, matter less.

The two young women were seated side-by-side. They clearly heard the power of each other's testimony.

There is a way for Congress to fairly address both women.

And that is to remain focused on gun violence as a public health crisis rather than as a political talking point.

Nearly 40,000 Americans died by guns in 2017. They were shot in homicides, in acts of domestic violence and in accidents, which are nearly always preventable. And the largest category gun deaths is suicides.

One of the outrageous aspects of our national problem with gun violence is how haphazardly it has been studied. The data sets we have are incomplete and in some cases cherry-picked. It is not an exaggeration to say that the gun lobby has consistently undercut government funding for research into gun violence.

Amid the lack of statistical understanding, gun rights zealots have spread a lot of nonsense about the effectiveness of gun-free zones. They also like to moan that "laws already on the books" have failed to stop some dangerously mentally ill person whenever it's convenient to explain away a mass killing, without mentioning their strenuous efforts to defang any law that might keep guns out of the hands of anybody, no matter how risky.

Eastmond believes that is going to change. "We are the generation that will end gun violence," she told the committee.

That may well be true. But only if young people continue showing up, speaking out and being more honest about gun violence than their elders.

Maliñgun Finkas Marianas

Dañkulu na maliñgu Marianas fondu ginen dos pagyu yan hiniyuñg inbetsionistas (investors) Japones guine. Ti menus ke \$14 Biyon na maliñgu ginen i dos sinisedi. Haf` mohon chansata sumoda`e tahguen maliñgun este na fondu?

Komprendiyun yinamag dos pagyu. Lau hiniyuñg salape` Japones ginen Marianas dañkulu siknifikasioña kontra ekonoman i tanu`. Kumu ti man-abendi hit mahlug lapes dispues.

Haf` masusedi ni umafuetsas este na disision? Kau ginen dis-kuiduta na man-hanau i los probes dispues de maprebeniye Marianas fondu ginen bisnis siha ni guine? Dispues de Japones haye otu siña man-ayuda yan kabales na fuetsan fiñkas?

Mauleg ta nañgan ñaihon haf` na disposision guaha para umasoda`e este na maliñgu. Taya` dinida na chafleg kinalam-tenta para mona pot siempre appenas fondu.

■■■

Maisa: Diariu hulili`e litratun un` agila mamaisa mientras gumugupu gi entalu` dos taduñg na kantit. Ha estira papaña man-rikohe mañglu` para u paya`ya` guatu gi ha intensiona na lugat.

Agila un` paluman dañkulu ni tatnai gumupu yan grupu. Todu i tiempu guiguia mamaisa. Naturat gi agila! Pot mamaisa yan libre mina` ha gu`ot ñaihon attension-hu. Libre gi todus kareraña!

Ti parehu yan hita ni tautau ni numesessita magachuñge para u felis hinanau-ta. Poresu na guaha deste asagua huyuñg esta i komunida para este na nesessidat-ta.

Ha gu`ot attension-hu pot guaha lokue` `nai hu agradesese tiempog-hu mamaisa gi taftaf oga`an. Manayuhot-yu` dispues hu taitai gaseta gi primet pusuelun kafe.

Guaha tiempu manaitai yan man-analisa haf` dichu i estorian sanhalum gi estoria siha ni mangaige gi gasetan Internet.

Dispues de este `nai hu prekura chumo`gue checho`hu gi tutuhun ha`ane. Sige mona esta i lemlen tautau. Megai besis na benefisiosu i hahagu ha` mamaisa gi ininan dichu asunto siha. Dispues, pas yan katma oriya-mu gi oran silensiu na tinayuyot-mu.

■■■

Asuntu: Man-mesñgun i 15-mit na empleau ni gumagana

suetdun popble. Kuatdiba ha`anen niha `an marikonose mone-dan familia ya taya` para usun otu siha prisisu na nesessidat!

Makat na kontrariu. Hu padese parehu `nai hoben-yu` mas ke sisienta años antes. Diberas na tiru deste amotsan hanum grifu antes de bai`n fanhanau para eskuela `an oga`an.

Ai, ayu `nai huli`e sensian ina`ayuda gi halum tautau-ta pot parehu pinadese. Makat lau ni unu sumeha kumalamten pot nesessidat.

Mattu i ha`anen gupot siha `nai in` heddu ham gi un` banda pot mantaya` mame. Popble i tanu` guihe na tiempu. Mit gracias pog fitme man-makreansan mame linala` espirituat na `in usune manu i guaha. Ni unu inna` chatsaga para bai`n fan la`la`. Parehu pinadesen sapet gi halum mattirun ha`ilas!

Namagof sa` gi todus famaguon bisinu ni unu umeyag che`chu` tailaye tat kumu mañake pat haf` na bidan kriminat. Mañgon-tentu gi haf` lokue` guinahan niha giya siha.

■■■

O`sun: Guaha `nai mattu ineson-hu mañgge` lau kada hu pega papa` lapeshu hu tuñgu` na ti propiu pot megai tuma-titiye haf` tinigege`hu pot asunto-ta siha. Hombre, esta lokue` i tautau tufai!

Ti todus fañgonfotme lau estaya guaha para ta diskute kumu membron este na komunida. Hagas payun-yu` rimulinun ridon-du gi asuntun linahyan siha.

Enfin, guaha lokue` `nai makat hu rikohe mañglu` para bai payaya` lau hu usune esta i sigiente kantit `nai hu nañga finattun fresku na mañglu`.

Lau pa`gu na sakan para bai regalun maisa-yu`. Bai pega papa` petmanente laspeshu mañgge` guine ha pahina gi gaseta. Puede guaha gai interes tumahgue-yu`. Nahuñg finapos-hu pot mas ke 46 años kumu periodista.

Kulan hinanau atdau, doku` gi sanhaya dispues machum gi sanlagu! Uttimu na biahen galaide` para i puntan tasi gi minachum atdau.

■■■

Tinilaika: Guaha `nos kuantus kanta `nai ma-atbansa deklaracion

John Dingell: In love with his life, in awe of his luck

Journalists like to imagine we know the politicians we cover. But that is usually a delusional conceit, and in the case of John Dingell, it was clearly preposterous.

By the time he retired from the House of Representatives in 2015, he had served in Congress longer than most of the reporters who covered him had been alive. His power at the zenith of his more than 59-year tenure was immense, its sources and tributaries too numerous to map.

Who can divine the secrets of a career so durable and complex? Who could say with authority what made John Dingell tick?

My own vantage point was a particularly modest one, deep in the bleacher seats of Dingell’s twilight years. He had been a fixture in Washington for nearly four decades when I moved to Detroit in 1988. I spoke to him perhaps a couple dozen times in the ensuing years, rarely at leisure, although he never once betrayed the truth that he had more important things to do.

I was in awe of him, and I was surprised to discover that he was a little in awe himself—not of his political savvy and accomplishments, but of what he considered his improbable luck in love and life.

You’ve read about the patrician who was born on third base and thinks he hit a triple? John Dingell was not that guy. He con-

sidered everything he valued—the circumstances of his birth, his exalted place in Washington, and particularly his wife, Debbie—the product of freakishly good fortune.

The most improbable jackpot of all? His American citizenship. “I really won the Mega Millions lottery when I was born in the United States of America,” he told me the month he retired. It never fails to surprise me how less-accomplished Americans regard the same accident of birth as proof of their own merit.

Dingell was right about his luck. But fortune favors the prepared mind, as Louis Pasteur observed, and Dingell’s was better prepared than most of his peers’.

He clung tenaciously to political values he shared with his father and congressional predecessor, convictions honed in the crucible of the Great Depression and Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal. But his real talent was for discovering the sweet spot where the objectives of lawmakers from disparate regions and rival political parties converged.

A landmark energy bill signed into law by George W. Bush was one of many bipartisan accomplishments secured via what former GOP Congressman Thad McCotter called “the Dingell approach.” “You start in the middle,” McCotter explained, “and work

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

sion “Chamoru-yu!” Hu ekuñgug ñaihon kau guaha esplikasion haf` i puntu? Lau maletke. Tinatiye ni usun palabra “protehe” Marianas. Ni este tai esplikasion haf` para umaprotehe!

Mafattu gi hinasog-hu kau pot ti maput na deklarasion pat guaha i tumugi` i kanta finaposña na mañgge` haf` rasaña? Lokue`, guaha kinalamten tautau hiyuñg guine para umaketulaika iya Marianas?

Kase hu komprende umisgen mamamu i palabra. Lau maletke i dichu asunto ya manafagpu` “Chamoru-yu”` yan “protehe” sin suanu na esplikasion. Ha yute`yu` gi un` banda para bai asimula haf` i asunto. Lastima!

■■■

Chaleg: I otu nuebu ni huhuñgug ilegña un` kantot “hu haga-ñg i Saina” pa`gu na “hane”, era gi tinayuyotña. Propiu palabras, “agañg” yan “ha`ane”.

Ilegña i otu “Hu fatinas este na kanta para hagu”. I kanta matutugi`, kosas mafatitinas. Pues seguruyu` na un tugi`e i nobia nu ennau na kanta.

Kulan este i “addeñg” para tautau “patas” para ga`ga`! I tautau un` kone` i kosas un` chule`. Debi ha` tafana`gue famaguon-ta ni difirensia.

Ti fina` botlu i puntu ni hu apupunta huyuñg solu ke sattun na interes na tana` dinanche i finu` Chamorro para i manatatte.

By BRIAN DICKERSON
Detroit Free Press



Brian Dickerson is the Free Press’ editorial page editor.

your way out to both sides.” It was the formula for many of Dingell’s legislative successes in a government where one party seldom controls all three branches simultaneously.

That so few of those who followed Dingell to Washington understand this politics of addition should worry us. So should the number of lawmakers who consider their own political victories evidence of divine favor.

John Dingell may have been baffled by how much luck he enjoyed, but he knew better than to squander it. Maybe the rest of us lottery winners should be as careful with our own inheritance.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY ‘PEPE BATBON’ CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey “Pepe Batbon” Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

Leading with Kindness: How Good People Consistently Get Superior Results by William Baker and Michael O’Malley.

February Acrostic Felicity

F - February finds cards and chocolate flavored flowers
E - Everyone has heart matters on their mind
B - Beyond Cupid’s bow beaucoup arrows fall
R - Right into the lovely heart of the matter
U - Understanding love, understanding with feeling
A - All my love, all my loving, all for others
R - Remembrance, Reality, Romance Rejuvenated
Y - You learn there were many Saint Valentines

‘Three Things in Human Life are Important’

Author’s Note: I made an error in the ‘Kindness Acrostic’ poem that was published in these pages a few weeks ago. It was spelled incorrectly and submitted missing a line. I have corrected it and added a little for Valentine’s Day. I have also revised my sonnet on “kindness” with a new title, quotation, and some commentary.

In a letter to his nephew William, who wrote him to find out the answers to life and how to live it, Henry James (1843-1916) wrote a letter which began: “My Dear One, I have your letter and here is my answer: Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. And the third is to be kind.”

Six of one kind half a dozen kindness of another
a double dose of love and three run fun homer
coming from friends family sister and brother
Kindness from everyone somewhat of a misnomer
it is a best friend of love and balm for sorrow
Kindness of being and being together as one
yesterday last night today and all day tomorrow
during and after typhoons in tropical rain and sun
many kinds of kindness exist physical and mental
the German language word for kindness is ‘friedlich’
Kindness can be experimental and developmental
New Zealanders practice kindness using Kiwi English
to paraphrase Gump ‘kindness is as kindness does’
from flower to honey kindness as worker bees buzz.

L.O.V.E. A.N.D. K.I.N.D.N.E.S.S.

Dedicated to the prime minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern. From her interview in a new edition of 200 Women, Q. What really matters to you? A. Empathy and kindness, because that’s what can drive social change...” Q. Which single word do you most identify with? A. Kindness.

- L - Leading virtues list
- O - Outstanding characteristic overall
- V - Valentine’s Day delightful specialty
- E - Encompassing Elusive Enraptured
- A - Antidote for hatred and anger
- N - Necessary for life
- D - Despair and depression are lessened by it
- K - Kindness
- I - In every decision we make
- N - Nicety and benevolence with firm intent
- D - Demonstrated daily
- N - Need for the whole world
- E - Energy and strength of will to do it
- S - Sense of awareness of others, community, environment
- S - Sense of self giving and sharing

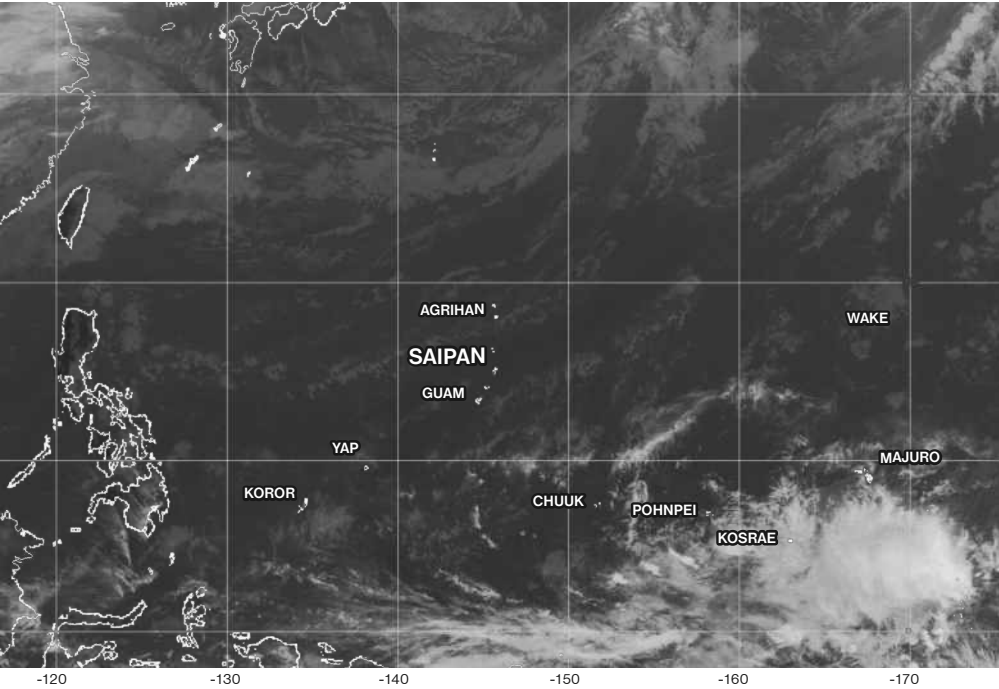
Some current books for adults on kindness: How to Raise Kind Kids and Get Respect, Gratitude, and a Happier Family in the Bargain, by Thomas Lickona; When Action Follows Heart: 365 Ways to Share Kindness by Susan Spencer;

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | | THURSDAY | | FRIDAY | | SATURDAY | | SUNDAY | |
|---|-----|---|-----|--------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph. | | Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph. | | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | |
| 87° | 76° | 87° | 76° | 87° | 76° | 87° | 76° | 87° | 76° |

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:04 AM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Skies are partly cloudy over the Marianas with isolated very light showers seen on radar. Moderate to fresh northeast winds continue across the region. Combined seas remain between 7 and 8 feet at the buoys.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

| MICRONESIA | | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---------------|---------------|-----------|--------|
| Guam and Rota | Partly Cloudy | 85° / 75° | |
| Palau | Partly Cloudy | 83° / 77° | |
| Yap | Showers | 84° / 78° | |
| Chuuk | Showers | 84° / 78° | |
| Pohnpei | Partly Cloudy | 84° / 77° | |
| Kosrae | Partly Cloudy | 84° / 77° | |
| Majuro | Cloudy | 85° / 80° | |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|------------------|---------------|-----------|--------|
| Auckland | Sunny | 79° / 64° | |
| Beijing | Snow Shower | 28° / 18° | |
| Hong Kong | Cloudy | 75° / 68° | |
| Honolulu | Showers | 75° / 64° | |
| London | Partly Cloudy | 52° / 37° | |
| Los Angeles | Rain | 55° / 53° | |
| Manila | Mostly Sunny | 88° / 73° | |
| Melbourne | Mostly Sunny | 75° / 55° | |
| Miami | Showers | 74° / 66° | |
| New York | Mostly Cloudy | 43° / 31° | |
| Osaka | Cloudy | 43° / 30° | |
| Paris | Partly Cloudy | 48° / 30° | |
| Busan | Cloudy | 50° / 45° | |
| Rome | Sunny | 55° / 36° | |
| Salem | Sunny | 61° / 38° | |
| San Francisco | Rain | 53° / 45° | |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | 39° / 27° | |
| Tokyo | Partly Cloudy | 45° / 30° | |
| Washington, DC | Windy | 47° / 34° | |

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | | FEET |
|----------------------------|-----------|------|------|
| 1:39 AM | HIGH TIDE | 1.40 | |
| 6:58 AM | LOW TIDE | 0.91 | |
| 1:00 PM | HIGH TIDE | 1.79 | |
| 8:28 PM | LOW TIDE | 0.24 | |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 6:42 AM | 6:19 PM |
| Thursday | 6:42 AM | 6:19 PM |
| Friday | 6:41 AM | 6:20 PM |
| Saturday | 6:41 AM | 6:20 PM |
| Sunday | 6:40 AM | 6:21 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Today | - | 12:14 AM | 12:08 PM |
| Thursday | - | 1:09 AM | 12:56 PM |
| Friday | - | 2:06 AM | 1:49 PM |
| Saturday | - | 3:06 AM | 2:47 PM |
| Sunday | - | 4:07 AM | 3:49 PM |

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| FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 21, 2019 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|---------|--------------------------|--|--|------------------------|---------|-----------|--------------------------|--|--|
| DEPARTURES | | | | | | ARRIVALS | | | | | |
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) | | | | | | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN | | | | | |
| UA117 | 9:15am | 9:55am | Daily | | | UA174 | 7:30am | 8:11am | Daily | | |
| UA105 | 6:25pm | 7:05pm | 2, 4 | | | UA104 | 4:50pm | 5:31pm | 2, 4 | | |
| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) | | | | | | BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN | | | | | |
| 7C3451 | 3:15am | 6:30am | Daily | | | 7C3452 | 9:35pm | 2:00am+1 | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | | |
| | | | | | | 7C3452 | 10:05pm | 2:00am+1 | 1 | | |
| SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) | | | | | | SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN | | | | | |
| OZ626 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 | | | 7C3402 | 10:10am | 3:30pm | Daily | | |
| OZ626 | 2:50am | 6:40am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | | | OZ625 | 7:40pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 | | |
| 7C3403 | 4:35am | 8:25am | Daily | | | OZ625 | 8:20pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 | | |
| 7C3401 | 4:30pm | 8:25pm | Daily | | | 7C3404 | 10:10pm | 3:40am+1 | Daily | | |
| SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) | | | | | | SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN | | | | | |
| 3U8648 | 6:10am | 8:50am | 1, 4, 5, 7 | | | 3U8647 | 10:20pm | 4:50am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 | | |
| SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) | | | | | | HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN | | | | | |
| JD396 | 7:30am | 11:00am | 1 | | | JD395 | 8:05am | 3:30pm | 4 | | |
| JD396 | 4:50pm | 7:55pm | 4 | | | JD395 | 9:35pm | 5:00am+1 | 7 | | |
| SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) | | | | | | GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN | | | | | |
| 3U8646 | 4:30am | 7:55am | 2, 6 | | | 3U8645 | 7:55pm | 2:40am+1 | 1, 5 | | |
| SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) | | | | | | BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN | | | | | |
| MU764 | 1:30am | 6:35am | 3, 5, 7 | | | MU763 | 4:40pm | 12:30am+1 | 2, 4, 6 | | |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | | | | | | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN | | | | | |
| UA117/183 | 9:15am | 9:40pm | 2, 5 via GUM | | | UA182/174 | 12:40am | 8:11am+1 | 3, 6 via GUM | | |
| UA117/183 | 9:15am | 9:50pm | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM | | | PR110/UA174 | 10:05pm | 8:11am+1 | Daily via GUM | | |
| UA117/193 | 9:15am | 11:50pm | 2, 5 via GUM-ROR | | | UA192/174 | 10:30pm | 8:11am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM-ROR | | |
| UA105/183 | 4:45pm | 9:40pm | 2 via GUM | | | UA184/174 | 10:55pm | 8:11am+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM | | |
| UA105/183 | 4:45pm | 9:50pm | 4 via GUM | | | | | | | | |
| SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) | | | | | | HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN | | | | | |
| HX077 | 1:50am | 5:15am | 1, 4 | | | OZ722/625 | 1:15pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN | | |
| OZ626/721 | 2:10am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN | | | OZ722/625 | 1:15pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN | | |
| OZ626/721 | 2:50am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | | | HX076 | 5:15pm | 12:15am+1 | 3, 7 | | |
| UO43 | 5:45am | 8:40am | 1, 3, 5, 7 | | | UO42 | 6:50pm | 1:45am+1 | 7 | | |
| UA117/159 | 9:15am | 11:00pm | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM | | | UO42 | 9:30pm | 4:25am+1 | 2, 4, 6 | | |
| ‘ | | | | | | UA116/174 | 11:45pm | 8:11am+1 | 2, 4 via GUM | | |
| UA105/159 | 4:45pm | 11:00pm | 2, 4 via GUM | | | UA116/174 | 11:55pm | 8:11am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM | | |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

| STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC. | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|--|--|
| SAIPAN TO ROTA | | | | 1203 | 9:00AM | 9:15AM | Daily | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | 1204 | 10:00AM | 10:15AM | Daily | | |
| 1301 | 7:30AM | 8:00AM | Daily | 1205 | 11:00AM | 11:15AM | Daily | | |
| 1302 | 11:30AM | 12:00PM | Daily | 1206 | 12:00PM | 12:15PM | Daily | | |
| 1303 | 4:00PM | 4:30PM | Daily | 1207 | 1:00PM | 1:15PM | Daily | | |
| ROTA TO SAIPAN | | | | 1208 | 2:00PM | 2:15PM | Daily | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | 1209 | 3:00PM | 3:15PM | Daily | | |
| 3101 | 8:15AM | 8:45AM | Daily | 1210 | 4:00PM | 4:15PM | Daily | | |
| 3102 | 1:45PM | 2:15PM | Daily | 1211 | 5:00PM | 5:15PM | Daily | | |
| 3103 | 4:45PM | 5:15PM | Daily | 1212 | 6:00PM | 6:15PM | Daily | | |
| ROTA TO GUAM | | | | TINIAN TO SAIPAN | | | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | | |
| 3401 | 12:15PM | 12:45PM | Daily | 2102 | 7:30AM | 7:45AM | Daily | | |
| GUAM TO ROTA | | | | 2103 | 8:30AM | 8:45AM | Daily | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | 2104 | 9:30AM | 9:45AM | Daily | | |
| 4301 | 1:00PM | 1:30PM | Daily | 2105 | 10:30AM | 10:45AM | Daily | | |
| SAIPAN TO TINIAN | | | | 2106 | 11:30AM | 11:45AM | Daily | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | 2107 | 12:30PM | 12:45PM | Daily | | |
| 1201 | 7:00AM | 7:15AM | Daily | 2108 | 1:30PM | 1:45PM | Daily | | |
| 1202 | 8:00AM | 8:15AM | Daily | 2109 | 2:30PM | 2:45PM | Daily | | |
| | | | | 2110 | 3:30PM | 3:45PM | Daily | | |
| | | | | 2111 | 4:30PM | 4:45PM | Daily | | |
| | | | | 2112 | 5:30PM | 5:45PM | Daily | | |
| | | | | 2113 | 6:30PM | 6:45PM | Daily | | |

MVA, partners host Lunar New Year party

A variety of cultural performances delighted visitors and residents alike at the Lunar New Year Party in the Marianas last Feb. 5, 2019, at the Paseo de Marianas pedestrian mall in Garapan.

The evening kicked off at 6pm with a traditional lion dance and classical dancing by the Chinese Association of Saipan. The opening act was followed by a taekwondo demonstration by the Ko-



Members of the Korean Community of Saipan demonstrates taekwondo at the Lunar New Year Party in the Marianas on Feb. 5, 2019. **MVA**



The Marianas High School POLKSAI Chamorro Club performs at the Lunar New Year Party in the Marianas on Feb. 5, 2019. **MVA**

rean Community of Saipan at 6:30pm, Marianas High School POLKSAI Chamorro Club at 7:30pm, Laulau Homebrew at 8pm, modern dance troupe Studio 29:11 at

8:30pm, and local musician James Selepeo at 9:15pm.

The event also included the sale of traditional Chinese and Korean new year dishes, as well other cuisine including barbecued seafood such as lobsters, scallops, and shrimp. Participating food vendors were Kinpachi Restaurant, Furusato Restaurant, Ina's Kitchen, Music Bank Restaurant, Canton Restaurant, and Fong's Bakery/Catering. Festival goers also had the opportunity to try their hand at Chinese calligraphy.

"On behalf of the Marianas Visitors Authority, we would

like to wish all a very Happy Lunar New Year," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We hope for an auspicious new year for both the Marianas and our valued visitors."

The pedestrian mall was decorated with traditional Korean and Chinese lamps. The event was co-organized by the Chinese Association, the Korean Community of Saipan, and the MVA.

For information on upcoming events in the Marianas visit The Marianas Calendar on the official MVA website at www.mymarianas.com. **(MVA)**



Yi Lian Tan demonstrates Chinese calligraphy at the Lunar New Year Party in the Marianas on Feb. 5, 2019. **MVA**



Kinpachi Restaurant offers barbecued seafood at the Lunar New Year Party in the Marianas last Feb. 5, 2019. Other food vendors were Furusato Restaurant, Ina's Kitchen, Music Bank Restaurant, Canton Restaurant, and Fong's Bakery/Catering. **MVA**

Skydive Guam's Vasili Mladinov celebrates 26,000th jump

The Guam Visitors Bureau joined Skydive Guam Inc. in celebrating tandem skydive instructor Vasili Mladinov's 26,000th jump last Feb. 9, 2019.

Skydive Guam hosted a Håfa Adai Pledge renewal ceremony that included a momentous jump from 14,000 feet in the air.

Skydive Guam Inc., which has locations in Guam and Saipan, renewed the commitment it made in 2012 to help to educate its staff about Guam's culture and historic sites and to preserve and protect Guam's natural beauty by helping to keep Guam clean.

Mladinov, who has been skydiving jumping for close to 50 years, said during the ceremony that January will mark his 20th year as a resident of Guam. During his career, Mladinov served as captain of the Soviet Skydiving National Team for 10 years. He has broken world records in formation skydiving, and he is a seven-time national skydiving champion in Russia.

GVB public information officer Josh Tyquengco witnessed Mladinov's expertise firsthand as Tyquengco and Mladinov made a tandem jump over Guam from 14,000 feet above sea level. A renewal ceremony was held at Skydive Guam, Inc.'s main office in Tiyan immediately after they landed.

GVB celebrated its second jump with the Skydive Guam team and the Håfa Adai Pledge Program's 10-year anniversary.

Ricky Woodall, general manager of Skydive Guam Inc., noted the importance of incorporating their Håfa Adai Pledge commitments into daily business operations.



Guam Visitors Bureau public information officer Josh Tyquengco gains an enhanced perspective of Guam's beauty from 14,000 feet during an adventurous Håfa Adai Pledge event with Skydive Guam Inc. The Feb. 9 event also celebrated Tandem Skydive instructor Vasili Mladinov's 26,000th jump. **GVB**


As valued partners in the tourism industry and the HAP program, Woodall and his team work hard to promote Guam's beauty shown from their unique perspective, all while extending the Håfa Adai spirit to Guam's visitors and local community.

The Håfa Adai Pledge celebrates its 10-year anniversary this 2019. It is a cornerstone of GVB's local community branding

campaign. The Håfa Adai Pledge program has grown steadily in the number of participants as well as the content of individual pledges since its inception in 2009. More than 820 private businesses, government agencies, nonprofits, organizations and local school children have taken the pledge, representing more than 36,500 individuals locally and abroad.




Guam Visitors Bureau public information officer Josh Tyquengco leads the Håfa Adai Pledge on Feb. 9 for Skydive Guam Inc. Tandem Skydive instructor Vasili Mladinov after Mladinov completed his 26,000th jump. **GVB**



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-19-008

SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR LIGHT VEHICLES AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the supply of fuel for light vehicles and heavy equipment for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-008 -Supply of Fuel for Light Vehicles and Heavy Equipment" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 4, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 15, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Contract Specialist via email address john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Business

US warns Hungary, other allies to shun business with Huawei

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP)—The United States may be forced to scale back certain operations in Europe and elsewhere if countries continue to do business with the Chinese telecommunications company Huawei, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Monday in a new warning that underscores U.S. concerns about the firm.

In Budapest on the first leg of a five-nation European tour during which he is raising American concerns about China and Russia's growing influence in Central Europe, Pompeo said nations would have to consider choosing between Huawei and the United States. The warning was broad but pointedly delivered in Hungary, a NATO ally and European Union member where Huawei is a major player.

"They are a sovereign nation," Pompeo said of Hungary. "They get to make their own decisions. What is imperative is that we share with them the things we know about the risks that Huawei's presence in their networks present—actual risks to their people, to the loss of privacy protections for their own people, to the risk that China will use this in a way that is not in the best interest of Hungary."

The U.S. has been warning countries about the risks of Chinese telecom technology as governments choose pro-

viders for the rollout of "5G" wireless Internet, which will enable faster download speeds but also greater connectivity among devices.

Pompeo says the presence of Chinese telecom infrastructure could drive a technological wedge between the U.S. and some allies.

"It also makes it more difficult for America to be present," Pompeo said. "That is, if that equipment is co-located where we have important American systems, it makes it more difficult for us to partner alongside them."

Pompeo said he had raised the concerns with Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto and would also do so with nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who has been criticized for seeking closer ties with Russia and China and for increasingly authoritarian rule at home.

"We want to make sure we identify (to) them the opportunities and the risks with using that equipment. And then they will get to make their decisions," Pompeo said.

The U.S. has repeatedly accused China of using technology to pilfer trade secrets. China recently has said that it's "totally unreasonable" to make some of these accusations and that the U.S. is just trying to suppress a rising competitor.

At a news conference with Pompeo, Szijjarto acknowledged that Huawei is present in Hungary but played down its position in the market. He also made the point repeatedly that Hungary accounts for only 1.2 percent of European Union trade with China.

"This does not endanger us from being an ally," Szijjarto said.

Pompeo will take the same message about Huawei to his next stop, Slovakia, on Tuesday, before heading to Poland, where he will participate in a conference on the future of the Middle East expected to focus on Iran. He will wrap up the tour with brief stops in Belgium and Iceland.

Pompeo said he hoped to reverse what he called a decade of U.S. disengagement in Central Europe that created a vacuum Russia and China have exploited. Over the course of the past 10 years, he said, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leaders have become much more aggressive in the region and made inroads.

"We must not let Putin drive wedges between friends in NATO," he said, adding that he had also warned of "the dangers of allowing China to gain a bridgehead in Hungary. Russia and China are authoritarian powers who do not share our joint aspirations of freedom."

the United Kingdom.

California subcontractor ordered to pay \$12M for wage theft

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A construction subcontractor has been ordered to pay nearly \$12 million for allegedly cheating more than 1,000 Southern California workers out of minimum wage, overtime and rest breaks. The state's labor commissioner said Monday that RDV Construction violated workers' rights on 35 construction sites across Los Angeles. Regulators call it California's largest wage-theft case involving private construction. Officials say workers hired by the drywall subcontractor were paid with checks that bounced and waited months to be reimbursed, only to receive less than what they were owed. RDV officials didn't respond to messages from the Los Angeles Times seeking comment. But a labor commissioner spokesman tells the newspaper that RDV has appealed the citation.

negotiating trade deals with other countries. He said May's agreement would achieve most of Corbyn's goals without preventing independent trade deals.

Toys R Us plans second act by holiday season

NEW YORK (AP)—Toys R Us fans in the U.S. should see the iconic brand re-emerge in some form by this holiday season. Richard Barry, a former Toys R Us executive and now CEO of the new company called Tru Kids Brands, told The Associated Press he and his team are still working on the details, but they're exploring various options including freestanding stores and shops within existing stores. He says that e-commerce will play a key role. Toys R Us, buckling under competition from Amazon and several billions of dollars of debt, filed for Chapter 11 reorganization in September 2017 and then liquidated its businesses last year in the U.S. as well as several other regions including

Nation

Snow slams Northwest again

SEATTLE (AP)—Schools closed across Washington state and the Legislature canceled all hearings Monday with winter snowstorms pummeling the Northwest again as a larger weather system wreaked havoc in the region and even brought snow to Hawaii.

Seattle's metro area had already been hit by three snow storms this month and the National Weather Service reports that Seattle-Tacoma International Airport has received 20.2 inches (51 centimeters) of snow so far in February, the snowiest month in more than 50 years.

The storm that hit Seattle Sunday dumped up to 4 inches (10 centimeters) of snow. More than 6 inches (15 centimeters) of snow fell on Monday with rain and snow expected Tuesday as a lingering jet stream drives cold arctic air into the normally temperate region, and was part of a larger cycle that has also driven snow as far away as Hawaii.

In the state capital of Olympia, lawmakers cancelled meetings and the University of Washington in Seattle and Washington State University in Pullman called off classes.

Clamor for ouster of top Democrats slows in Virginia

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—The clamor for the resignation of Virginia's top two politicians seemed to die down Monday, with some black community leaders forgiving Gov. Ralph Northam over the blackface furor and calling for a fair hearing for Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax on the sexual assault allegations against him.

Over the past several days, practically the entire Democratic establishment rose up to demand fellow Democrats Northam and Fairfax immediately step down. But the tone changed markedly after the weekend.

A Democratic state lawmaker who had threatened to begin impeachment proceedings against Fairfax, Virginia's highest-ranking black politician, set the idea aside after running into resistance.

At the same time, several black clergy and civic leaders made clear they are willing to give both Northam and Attorney General Mark Herring a second chance, while urging due process for Fairfax. Herring, like Northam, has admitted putting on



This Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019, photo shows snow on the ground in Polipoli Spring State Recreation Area in Kula, Hawaii on the island of Maui.

And as far away as Northern California, Humboldt County beaches that have not had snow in more than 15 years received a dusting and blizzard conditions caused whiteouts on mountain roads.

In Seattle, the snow's effects were amplified by a prolonged stretch of cold temperatures.

"You've got storm after storm sliding down the sweet spot to produce low-level snow," said Kirby Cook, a meteorologist at Seattle's National Oceanic and

» Even Hawaii gets some

Atmospheric Administration office. He described weather systems pulling cold air from Canada and combining it with moist air pulled east from the Pacific Ocean.

When snow does fall in the area, normally enough warm air is drawn from over the Pacific to melt it soon after it falls, but the steady stream of cold air has kept normally-mild western Washington colder than normal — and let the snow build up.

"It's really rare for us to maintain this pattern," Cook said.

blackface in the 1980s.

As the scandals engulfing Virginia's top three elected Democrats developed, it became increasingly clear that it could look bad for the party if Fairfax were summarily pushed out and the two white men managed to stay in power.

"The sort of irony that makes your head spin is that Herring and Northam are in trouble for behavior related to Virginia's racial past. And yet it may be the only African-American statewide officeholder who, at the end of the day, gets in trouble," said Quentin Kidd, a political science professor at Virginia's Christopher Newport University. "This may get worse and more uncomfortable before it gets better—if it does get better."

If Northam stepped down, Fairfax would become Virginia's second African-American governor in history. If all three Democrats resigned, a Republican could become governor: GOP House Speaker Kirk Cox is next in the line of succession.

Late last week, amid

widespread calls for Fairfax's resignation, Democratic Del. Patrick Hope, who is white, announced plans to introduce articles of impeachment against the lieutenant governor on Monday. But Hope relented, citing both reaction from colleagues and online accusations he is a racist.

Hours later, a group of eight black clergy and community leaders said during a news conference that they forgive Northam and want to give him a second chance. Former Richmond City Councilman Henry "Chuck" Richardson called Northam a "good and decent man" who has stood with African-Americans on important issues.

Separately, a set of black leaders listed steps they said Northam and Herring should take to redeem themselves during their remaining three years in office, including removing Confederate statues and raising more money for Virginia's historically black colleges.

"In our opinion, it is not enough for you to simply apologize," the black leaders said in a letter.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

UK's May seeks compromise with Labour in EU divorce deal

LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister Theresa May sought a compromise Monday with opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn in hopes of securing his backing for a divorce deal with the European Union. The political maneuvering comes amid strong signs that uncertainty over Brexit is already clamping down on Britain's economic growth. Taking a cordial tone, May suggested further talks with the Labour Party leadership even as she said she did not see the advantage of permanent membership in the EU's customs union, a key demand Corbyn is seeking in exchange for backing her troubled Brexit bill in Parliament. Justice Minister Rory Stewart told the BBC that differences between the two parties aren't as great as some suggest, but said the Conservative government can't accept Corbyn's customs union demand because it would prevent Britain from

Asia

AMID PUSH FOR PEACE

Top Pentagon official in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Pentagon's top official made an unannounced visit to Afghanistan on Monday to meet with U.S. commanders and Afghan leaders amid a push for peace with the Taliban.

Pat Shanahan, the recently installed acting secretary of defense, said he has no orders to reduce the U.S. troop presence, although officials say that is at the top of the Taliban's list of demands in exploratory peace negotiations.

Shanahan said he is encouraged that President Donald Trump's administration is exploring all possibilities for ending a 17-year war, the longest in American history.

But he stressed that peace terms are for the Afghans to decide. Thus far the Taliban have refused to negotiate with the government of President Ashraf Ghani, calling it illegitimate. Washington is trying to break that impasse.

"The Afghans have to decide what Afghanistan looks like. It's not about the U.S., it's about Afghanistan," Shanahan told reporters traveling with him from Washington.

Later, Shanahan flew to a military base ringed by snow-capped hills where he met Afghan army commandos, who are regarded as the most capable element of the Afghan military. He told reporters the U.S.-trained commandos are increasingly on the offensive against the Taliban.

Zalmay Khalilzad, the ad-

ministration's special envoy for Afghan peace talks, said Friday that although talks are in an early stage, he hopes a deal can be made by July. That is when Afghanistan is scheduled to hold a presidential election.

Shanahan, a former Boeing executive who had never been in Afghanistan until Monday, was scheduled to meet with Ghani and other top government officials.

Shanahan took over as acting secretary of defense on Jan. 1 after Jim Mattis submitted his resignation in December. Shanahan had been Mattis' No. 2.

Shanahan's views on the Afghan war are not widely known. He said he would use this week's visit to inform his thinking and to report back to Trump.

In testimony before Congress last week, Gen. Joseph Votel, the commander of U.S. Central Command, offered a largely optimistic view of Afghanistan, saying the current maneuvering between U.S. and Taliban negotiators is "our first real opportunity for peace and reconciliation since the war began."

Votel noted that the Taliban are still capable of inflicting significant casualties on Afghan government forces. Just last week the insurgents killed some two dozen Afghan troops in an attack on an army base in northern Kunduz province.

In addition to battling the

Taliban, U.S. and coalition forces in Afghanistan are focused on an Islamic State affiliate known as ISIS-Khorasan, comprised of foreign fighters largely from Pakistan. "Left unchecked," Votel said in his report to Congress, ISIS-Khorasan "will continue to grow as a threat to our homeland."

In his remarks to reporters during his flight to Kabul, Shanahan said that although the Islamic State presence in Syria "has been decimated," local Syrian security forces are needed to ensure stability. He said IS still has a global presence.

"If something hasn't been completely eradicated, there is a risk of it returning," he said.

Trump has taken an ambivalent approach to Afghanistan, saying his instinct upon entering office in 2017 was to withdraw. Yet he chose instead to add about 3,500 troops in 2017-2018 to bolster the U.S. effort to train and advise Afghan forces. After Mattis resigned in December, Trump insisted that he had been unhappy with how Mattis handled Afghanistan. Since then, the administration has said it achieved a tentative "framework" for fuller peace negotiations with the Taliban.

"We do not know whether we will achieve an agreement," Trump said in his State of the Union address to Congress last week, "but we do know that after two decades of war, the hour has come to at least try for peace."

Karol Bagh neighborhood of India's capital city. Their medical conditions were not immediately known. Fire officer Vijay Paul says 25 fire engines responded to the blaze, which has been extinguished. Paul says the fire engulfed most of the five-story hotel. Paul says 35 people were rescued from the hotel. He says authorities are still investigating what caused the fire.

Uighurs to China: Post a video of my missing relatives, too

BEIJING (AP)—Members of the Uighur Muslim ethnic group are calling on China to post videos of their relatives who have disappeared into a vast system of internment camps. The social media campaign follows the release of a state media video showing famed Uighur musician Abdurehim Heyit, who many believed had died in custody. China has come under increasing scrutiny for the camps holding an estimated 1 million minority Muslims in its far west Xinjiang region. Beijing says these facilities are vocational training centers where Uighurs, Kazakhs and others receive free skills education. In a rare show of public criticism from a majority Muslim nation, Turkey on Saturday called China's treatment of Uighurs "a great cause of shame for humanity." Its foreign ministry condemned the camps, citing Heyit's reported death.

World

Fierce battles near final IS foothold in eastern Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—Islamic State group militants cornered in their last foothold in eastern Syria fought back with suicide car bombs, snipers and booby traps Monday, slowing Kurdish fighters advancing under the cover of U.S.-led coalition airstrikes, Kurdish news agencies and a Syrian war monitor said.

An Italian photographer was wounded in the clashes between the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces and the militants holed up in the village of Baghouz, near the border with Iraq, an Italian news agency said.

No one knows exactly how many Islamic State fighters are still holding out in the sliver of territory under attack, although they are estimated to be in the hundreds, most of them foreign fighters. It is also unclear if civilians are still inside, caught under heavy bombardment.

The SDF on Saturday launched its final push to clear the area from IS, after months of fighting that saw 20,000 civilians fleeing just in the past few weeks. The numbers have overwhelmed Kurdish-run camps in northeastern Syria, where humanitarian conditions are already dire amid a cold winter and meager resources.

Venezuela's crisis hits stand-still over emergency aid

CUCUTA, Colombia (AP)—Nearly three weeks after the Trump administration backed an all-out effort to force out President Nicolas Maduro, the embattled socialist leader is holding strong and defying predictions of an imminent demise.

Dozens of nations have recognized opposition leader Juan Guaido's claim to the presidency and the U.S. has tightened sanctions aimed at cutting off billions of dollars in oil revenue. But anti-Maduro street protests have come and gone, and large-scale military defections have failed to materialize.

With the U.S. seen as considering military action only as a last resort, Guaido is trying to regain momentum with an effort this week to move U.S. emergency food and medicine into Venezuela despite Maduro's pledge to block it.

Such an operation could provoke a dangerous con-



In this Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019 image from video provided by Hawar News Agency, ANHA, an online Kurdish news service,

The capture of the IS-held village of Baghouz and nearby areas would mark the end of a devastating four-year global war to end the IS extremists' territorial hold over large parts of Syria and Iraq, where the group established its self-proclaimed "caliphate" in 2014. That in turn, would open the way for U.S. President Donald Trump to begin withdrawing U.S. troops from northern Syria as he has promised to do once the Islamic State group has been defeated.

"The U.S. will soon control 100% of ISIS territory in Syria," Trump tweeted Sunday. He has said repeatedly that he doesn't want the U.S.

to be the world's policeman and that he intends to bring the 2,000 U.S. troops home.

U.S. officials and Trump's own military advisers, however, have warned that losing its territorial hold does not mean that the Islamic State group is defeated, warning that IS could stage a comeback in Syria within six months to a year if the military and counterterrorism pressure on it is eased. Gen. Joseph Votel, the commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East, estimated there are between 1,000 and 1,500 IS fighters in the small area they still control, but he said others have "dispersed" and "gone to ground."

popular rivals from running and jailing others.

The 35-year-old Guaido was a virtually unknown lawmaker until last month, when he took the helm of the opposition-controlled National Assembly. He has rallied masses of Venezuelans into street demonstrations that have left at least 40 dead since he declared himself interim president on Jan. 23.

Guaido has so far avoided arrest, but the general comptroller announced Monday it was opening an investigation into Guaido's assets in a new escalation of the confrontation between the government and the National Assembly.

Guaido has won backing from nearly 50 countries worldwide, including the United States, which has pledged an initial \$20 million in support and has already shipped emergency food and medicine to the Colombian border city of Cucuta, where it sits in a warehouse.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thai polls regulator heeds king, blocks princess' candidacy

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's Election Commission on Monday disqualified the sister of the country's king from becoming a candidate for prime minister in next month's general election, saying all royals have to be above politics and the monarchy must remain politically neutral. The commission's decision came after her brother issued an order describing Princess Ubolratana Mahidol's political bid as inappropriate and unconstitutional. The Thai Raksa Chart Party last Friday registered Ubolratana as its candidate, defying precedent against royal involvement in politics. Her choice of party was notable because the party is associated with the political machine of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted in a 2006 coup after being accused of abuse of power and disrespect for the monarchy. A royal order late Friday night from King Maha Vajiralongkorn said tradition and law barred the princess from politics.

Police: 17 killed in fire at New Delhi hotel, 4 others hurt

NEW DELHI (AP)—Seventeen people have died in a fire at a hotel in western New Delhi. Police spokesman Mandeep Singh Randhawa says at least four others were injured in the fire early Tuesday at the Arpit Palace Hotel in the

Good Housekeeping

Tropical style garden all about attitude

By Norman Winter
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

After the Polar Vortex visit, it left many of us thinking about life in the tropics or at the bare minimum longing for summer, gardening, and splashing in the pool. In reality, it will not be long until the backyard becomes our corner of paradise, our secret garden if we add a few tropical plants.

The tropical style garden is about an attitude as much as it is about style. Many of us made treks across the seas to far-off islands where the crystal-clear water, fragrant blossoms, and lush surroundings made us forget the stresses of life.

Though we might have been there for days, maybe even making more than one trip a year, time seemed fleeting.

We find ourselves wishing we could create that look, that feel, at home, so that when we have fought the four lanes of commuting traffic, after a contentious day at the office, we can slip into cutoffs and transition ourselves to paradise. This will become our nest, our place to cook and unwind, and like Jimmy Buffet sings in "that one particular harbor."

This past summer my son took a couple of photos for the 'old man' while at the Atlanta Zoo. I take my hat off to the



Bananas are fast growers. This Red Abyssinian banana froze to the ground in Columbus but was roof high by mid-August.

zoo staff that created such a picturesque setting, serving as an inspiration, or example of what can be done using everyday plants from the local garden center.

Transforming the garden to the look of the islands might be as simple as adding some coarse-textured foliage. At the Atlanta Zoo, they combined variegated bananas, black elephant ears, golden thyralis, Persian shield, and bromeliads into what looked like a Jamaican retreat.

In another garden, they used more bananas, a couple of tree ferns, coleus, philodendrons, and elephant ears for a rain

forest look. When visitors walked by, I'm sure they were not only talking about the animals but also how beautiful the Atlanta zoo is, and how they felt as though they were on an exotic vacation to the tropics. Plants will do that, they will create the mood.

There are many tropical plants at today's garden center that are more-cold-hardy than you ever imagined. They may freeze to the ground and return in the spring but that's the nature of many of our regular perennials too.

There are bananas for sale like the Japanese fiber banana that's has been known to return from minus 20 degrees. But then there are plants like hostas and ferns that simply look tropical.

Another consideration for going tropical is our long growing season. Take, for example, a city like Baltimore that has around 238 days of frost-free weather or Louisville, Kentucky with 220 days. This means for over 7 months those cities can look like the Balata Gardens in Martinique.

Another factor is summer heat. When the stifling temperatures have sent you indoors where it is much cooler, guess what plants are looking good out in the garden. More than likely they are tropical plants like lantanas, mandevilla, ixora, crossandra, princess flower, and hibiscus.

The banana grows extremely fast. Last year a Red Abyssinian banana in Columbus

froze to ground level in my son's landscape. In May it put up a shoot a couple of inches tall, by the middle of August it was taller than the roof of the house.

Don't be afraid to create

your corner of paradise this summer using a healthy addition of tropical plants, put on your Hawaiian shirt, fire-up the grill and imagine that you are hearing the sounds of the steel drums in the distance.

How to prune an umbrella plant and repot a cast-iron plant



TNS

The leaves of an Umbrella plant (*Schefflera arboricola*) on a sunny day.

By JESSICA DAMIANO
NEWSDAY

Dear Jessica: My wife has a green thumb without even trying. People always give her dying plants, and she brings them back. We have one (I don't know what it is) that we'd like to trim back as it's over 6 feet tall. Can it be trimmed? If so, where and when should we cut it?

—Henry Ashby

Dear Henry: You have a Schefflera, often referred to as an umbrella plant, and by the looks of it, I'd say your assessment of your wife's green thumb is correct. The plants are native to the tropics, but here in Zone 7, they are often grown as houseplants. Indoor-grown umbrella plants should get plenty of indirect sunlight, such as by an east-, west- or south-facing window that's covered with a sheer curtain. Overwatering can prove fatal, so soil should be allowed to dry completely before slowly and completely soaking soil until water runs out the pot's drainage holes (saucers should be emptied afterward to avoid absorption of excess water).

Outdoors in their natural habitat, Schefflera trees can grow 40 feet tall; indoors they usually max out at about 8 feet and don't require pruning to thrive. However, if you'd like to control its shape or size, this can be safely and easily done. Using sharp pruners, start by removing any unhealthy or leggy stems, cutting them to approximately three inches from the soil line. Then, to

control the plant's overall height and width, trim tall stalks to the desired length, cutting each about an inch above the next leaf.

Dear Jessica: I have a black thumb; every plant I touch dies. But I have a plant that I received from a friend at my mother's funeral in 2017, so it's very important to me. Through trial and error, and some research, I've been able to keep it alive. Now I want to put it in a nice pot. How do I do it without killing it? Please help.

—Desiree Dinkins

Dear Desiree: Your plant, *Aspidistra elatior*, is commonly called a cast-iron plant. Its name derives from the amount of neglect and (sometimes abuse) it can withstand. It doesn't even like, much less need, sunlight. Varieties include those with waxy, glossy green, yellow-speckled or cream-striped leaves, but the green ones, such as yours, are the most vigorous. Water only when dry and fertilize with ordinary houseplant fertilizer twice a month in summer and fall, plus once over winter, and they will thrive.

Young plants, which tend to grow quickly, can be repotted, but no more than once a year. Larger, mature plants can be repotted every three years. Regardless, move them up only into the next-size container, typically one or two inches larger. Any bigger, and the extra soil will retain more water than the plant needs, placing it at risk of root rot, which is fatal.



TNS

The Atlanta Zoo created a tropical paradise using plants found at progressive garden centers.



TNS

Atlanta is in Zone 7 but the Atlanta Zoo's choice of plants makes you think the islands.

Life & Style

Bezos probe concludes mistress' brother was Enquirer source

WASHINGTON (AP)—Private investigators working for Jeff Bezos have concluded that the brother of the Amazon CEO's mistress leaked the couple's intimate text messages to the National Enquirer, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press on Monday.

The person wasn't authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke to AP on condition of anonymity.

The findings add to the intrigue surrounding the clash between the pro-Trump tabloid and the world's richest man. Bezos' investigators have suggested the Enquirer's coverage of his affair was driven by dirty politics. Trump has been highly critical of Bezos over his ownership of The Washington Post and Amazon, and the Post's

coverage of the White House.

The brother, Michael Sanchez, is a supporter of President Donald Trump and an acquaintance of Trump allies Roger Stone and Carter Page. He is also the manager of his sister, Lauren Sanchez, a former TV anchor. The investigators have not said how they believe Michael Sanchez came into possession of his sister's intimate messages.

Michael Sanchez did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment on Monday. In a Jan. 31 tweet, he said without evidence that Bezos' long-time security consultant, Gavin de Becker, who is leading the private investigation, "spreads

fake, unhinged conservative conspiracy theories."

An attorney for the tabloid's parent company did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

On Sunday, an attorney for the head of American Media, which owns the Enquirer, said that the information for the story had been provided by a "reliable source" well-known to Bezos and Lauren Sanchez. The source had provided information to the company for at least seven years, Elkan Abramowitz, an attorney for American Media Inc. chief executive David Pecker, said on ABC's "This Week."

He was asked if Sanchez was the source and he said: "I'm not

permitted to tell you or confirm or deny who the source is."

But the Daily Beast, citing people inside American Media, Inc., reported that Sanchez was the Enquirer's source.

PBS'Finding Your Roots' looks into political leaders' past

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr., hopes this season of his popular PBS series "Finding Your Roots" helps a divided U.S. see how all Americans have unique family links and how those family histories tell the story of the country.

Now in its fifth season, the series takes advantage of new advancements in genealogy and genetics to look into the history of American celebrities. In upcoming episodes

Bezos ordered the investigation after the Enquirer published a story about the affair last month. The investigators have since turned over the results of their probe to attorney

Richard Ben-Veniste for review and possible referral to law enforcement. Ben-Veniste had served as special prosecutor during the Watergate scandal.

sity. "We couldn't do this 10 years ago."

Gates said investigators were able to locate some of Ryan's ancestors in Germany back to 1531. They also found that the former Republican leader is a descendant of Ashkenazi Jews, based on his DNA. "He almost fell over," Gates said. "As the brothers on the streets say: DNA don't lie."

The show on Ryan and Gabbard, who is running for president, airs on most PBS stations on Tuesday.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Nielsen says just under 20 million watched Grammy Awards

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Nearly 20 million people watched Childish Gambino and Kacey Musgraves earn four trophies each at the Grammy Awards, about the same audience as the annual music show had last year. The Nielsen company on Monday estimated the Grammy audience size at 19.9 million. The 2018 audience of 19.8 million had been the Grammys' smallest audience in a decade. Alicia Keys hosted the show, which last night had some strong performances, particularly by women. Cardi B, Brandi Carlile, Janelle Monae and Musgraves all had memorable turns onstage, with Dolly Parton and Diana Ross participating in their own crowd-pleasing tributes. Still, the night had its

share of bad vibes. Childish Gambino and Kendrick Lamar declined invitations to attend, and Ariana Grande pulled out following a dispute with producers. The Grammys also cut short the acceptance speeches of several Grammy winners, including Drake and Musgraves.

Film academy reveals which 4 Oscars will be given off air

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The film academy has finally revealed the Oscar categories that will be presented during the commercial breaks of this year's broadcast in an attempt to shorten the show to three hours. The Oscars for cinematography, film editing, makeup and hairstyling and live-action short will be presented off-air at this year's ceremony, an Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences spokesper-

son said Monday. The winning speeches will air later in the broadcast and will also be live-streamed on Oscar.com and the film academy's social accounts. Film academy president John Bailey said in a note to members that the executive committees of six branches opted-in to this "slightly edited timeframe" and the board of governors chose four this year. "We are committed to presenting a show which we all will be proud of," Bailey said. In future years, four to six rotating categories could be cut from the broadcast.

'Saturday Night Live' star Aidy Bryant ready to be shrill

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — "Saturday Night Live" star Aidy Bryant says she was drawn to the Hulu series "Shrill" because of the chance

to play a woman who is about more than her weight. The six-part comedy debuting March 15 is based on Lindy West's memoir, "Shrill: Notes from a Loud Woman," which Bryant said struck a chord with her. She identified with the book's portrayal of a world that is "telling you you're wrong for existing the way you do, even if you don't feel that way," Bryant told a TV critics' meeting Monday. "You feel like, 'I have a lot to offer the world and why do I have to do it in a size-two package?'" But the series, which Bryant co-wrote, isn't what she called a "fat festival" that's obsessed with weight.

Clooney returns to high school read 'Catch 22' for Hulu show

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — George Clooney says he never expected his next project to be a

miniseries based on a novel he read in high school. But against his initial inclination, he's directing and starring in Hulu's series "Catch-22," drawn from Joseph Heller's classic work about the insanity of war. The streaming service Hulu will release it this spring. Clooney said Monday that the longer format allowed them to develop the characters beyond what could be done in Mike Nichols' 1970 classic movie. Adopted at the time by opponents of the Vietnam War, he said the story making fun of the red tape and bureaucracy of war is relevant today and not tied to a particular conflict. Series makers say the mixture of horror and hilarity becomes more pronounced as the series goes on.

Michael Jackson wax statue removed by Danish mall

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Denmark's oldest shopping mall has removed a wax statue of Michael Jackson out of fears it could offend customers and may be vandalized because of accusations that the late pop star molested boys. Charlotte Andersen, marketing manager for the Roedovre Centrum mall, told Denmark's TV2 broadcaster that they had received about 15 complaints about the Jackson statue, mostly from families with children. The mall had announced an exhibition with wax statues of major stars, including Marilyn Monroe and Julia Roberts, to coincide with Danish schools' weeklong winter holiday that started Monday. Jackson's statue was replaced with one of Brad Pitt. The 75,500-square-meter (about 810,000-square-foot) mall was the first to open in Denmark in 1966.

May-December romance trips on question of having kids

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 67-year-old single white man. My girlfriend is 21 and African-American. We have been together a year and a half and are deeply in love. We have lots of fun together and go out and do things.

When we are out together, people often stare at us. She's very attractive and turns heads. I tell her everyone is looking at her because she is so beautiful, but that's probably not totally true.

We want to be together, but I'm reluctant. The love feels good and true, but the rest is scary. We would like to have children, but she wonders if there is any risk in having a child with me. We have tried to break up, but we missed each other so much we got back together. We have a very active sex life. Do you have any advice?

UNCERTAIN IN OHIO

DEAR UNCERTAIN: People may stare because of the large discrepancy in your ages or because they aren't used to seeing interracial couples. Because you are concerned about how things will play out if the two of you decide to start a family, it would be wise to get genetic counseling because of your age. While 67 isn't over the hill, the decision to embark on starting a family at that age may depend upon your overall health and the life expectancy in your family.

DEAR ABBY: Our friend recently got engaged to someone who is, well, terrible! This is her first real relationship. They moved in together and got a dog within six months.

He's a lot older than she is, emotionally manipulative and abusive. Before they got together — a couple of months after his previous fiancée broke their engagement — she talked constantly about how desperate she was for a boyfriend. Long story short, she was looking for love, and he appeared.

We're not the only ones worried for her. We have spoken with several mutual friends. We all have the same concerns but are afraid to approach her about them. He has damaged her professional and personal relationships and essentially clipped her wings.

She was a bright, kind and ambitious person with wonderful dreams before she settled for him. She has lost herself in this relationship, and we don't know what to say to her, if we should say anything at all. Help!

NERVOUS IN THE NORTHWEST

DEAR NERVOUS: While it may be tempting, resist the urge to drift away from her because of him. Rather than remain silent, you and the others should point out the impact her fiancé has had on her professional relationships. If he is as you describe, she may eventually learn for herself why his

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



previous fiancée didn't marry him. And when that happens, she may need all the support you all can give her.

DEAR ABBY: Five years ago, my 26-year marriage ended in divorce. I am now in a wonderful new relationship. Do I have an obligation to inform my ex of my new status?

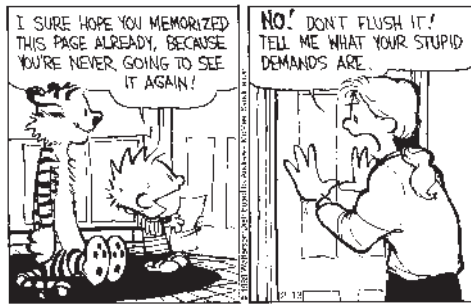
DEBBIE IN THE EAST

DEAR DEBBIE: Heck no! Let your children do it for you.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

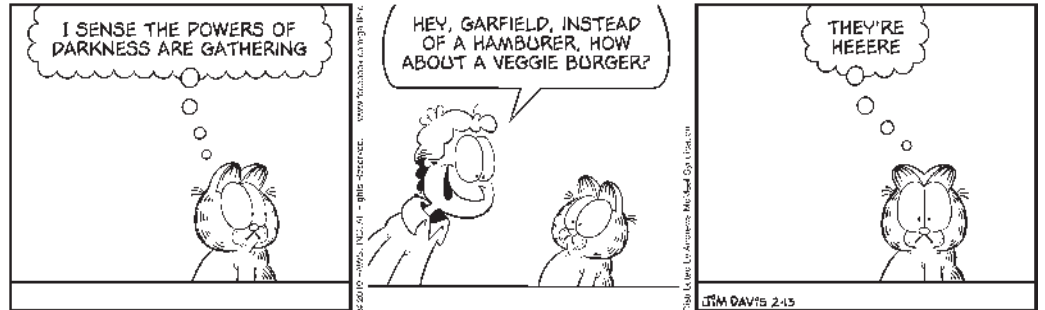
Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

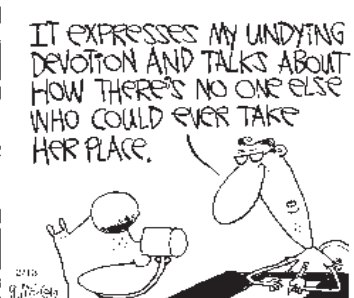
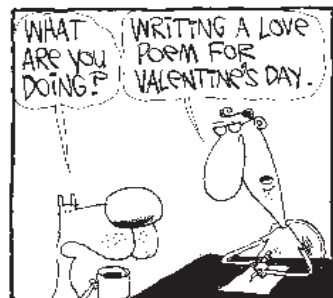
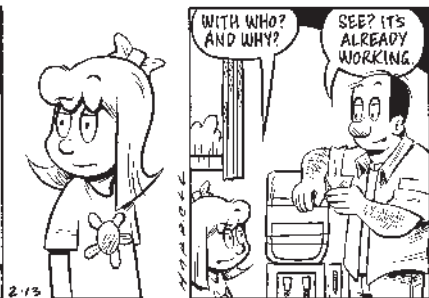
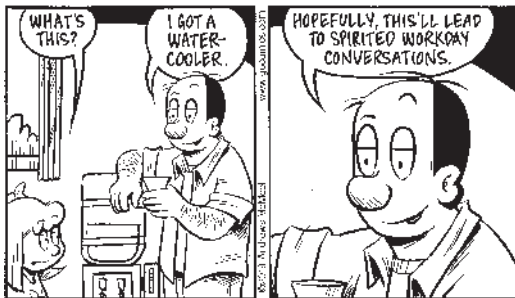


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 — Valley, Calif.
5 Indent key
8 Booty
12 Portent
13 Hot temper
14 Corduroy ridge
15 Arm of the Arctic Ocean
17 Desire
18 Sub detector
19 Sunflower State
21 Study all night
24 Pvt.'s superior
25 Salamander
28 Canal feature
30 Acapulco gold
33 "The Greatest"
34 Continental cash
35 "Awesome!"
36 Sweetie

DOWN

1 Scatters seeds
2 Texter's "As I see it"
3 Chow —
4 Unbroken
5 — the season ...
6 Exist
7 Toucan's feature
8 Tried to hit a homer
9 Veteran's tale
10 Pond growth
11 Pop music's Bee —
16 Goof up
20 Requests
22 Grad
23 Aesopian ending
25 "Unh-unh"
26 "Evil Woman"
27 Port authority?
29 Designer Chanel
31 Squealer
32 Poetic tribute
34 Drei minus zwei
38 Dwarf tree
40 Expels
42 Camp bed
43 Postal delivery
44 "Othello" villain
45 Ornamental jug
47 Pitch
48 Jai —
49 Band in Boston?
52 Prior night
53 Snooze

Solution time: 23 mins.

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| E | I | R | E | T | O | C | L | S | I |
| R | E | O | S | H | U | N | - | O | N |
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| S | O | L | I | F | M | S | S | N | A |

Yesterday's answer 2-13

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mena Suvari, 40; Kelly Hu, 51; Peter Gabriel, 69; Stockard Channing, 75.

Happy Birthday: Don't mince words. If you have something to say, spit it out. Be direct to avoid giving the wrong impression. How you handle others and the way you relate and share information will make a difference in whether you achieve your goals. Don't let your emotions take over or interfere in doing what's right or best for yourself. Your numbers are 4, 10, 16, 24, 31, 35, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Consider what you are doing and what you want to be doing, and look for a way to make the adjustment. Discuss your plans with whoever will be affected by the decision you make, and prepare to move forward. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Discipline and hard work will pay off. Set your sights on what you want to achieve and take action. Make personal and professional improvements your targets. Talking to individuals who can help you make your dreams come true will pay off. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Emotions will surface when dealing with matters that can affect the way you earn your living. A change you make should be geared toward adding to your qualifications. Keeping up with the times will determine your fate. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Share your thoughts and intentions. Your descriptive way of explaining your plans will make it

difficult for others to resist wanting to come along for the ride. A partnership will take on a deeper meaning, and romance will improve your personal life. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Opportunity knocks. Get out and do things that will bring you in contact with interesting people. The information you pick up will help you bring about the changes you want to make. Professional options look promising. Negotiate on your own behalf. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Mingle more or spend quality time with someone you love or respect. What you gain through interactions with forward-thinking people will lead to positive changes that will alleviate stress and give you something to look forward to. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Think twice before you get into a spat with someone close to you. Anger and arguments will not solve problems. Honesty and peaceful solutions will. Show compassion and respect for others' opinions, and expect the same in return. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Share your ideas with someone you love, and good plans will transpire. A unique change can be made that will improve how or where you live. A short trip or research will jump-start your next adventure. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be a participant, but protect against insult or injury. You have what it takes to win on your own. Don't trust others to take care of your

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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business or to protect you from loss. Play your cards close to the vest. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look beyond what's happening in the present and plan for the future with optimism. Change is required in order to find the freedom you need to take on something new and exciting. Go with the flow and see what happens. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep an open mind when dealing with friends, relatives and emotional matters. Try to be objective and to offer suggestions that are doable. A change of pace will help you look, do and be your best in professional situations. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Trust will play a role in how others respond to you. Be honest about the way you feel instead of being evasive for fear of getting hurt or hurting someone else. Truth matters and must be upheld. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are insightful, original and kind. You are a dreamer and an achiever.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 8 | 1 | 4 | | | |
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| | 2 | 7 | 5 | | 9 | 6 | 8 | | |
| 2 | 4 | | | 8 | | | 3 | 5 | |
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| 7 | | | | | | | | | 4 |
| | 8 | | | | | | 6 | | |
| | | 9 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | | | |

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/13

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| 4 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 5 |
| 7 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 3 |
| 6 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| 8 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 1 |
| 2 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 9 |
| 3 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 4 |
| 9 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 7 |

Difficulty Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TRENDY CAPS Solution: 8 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| L | C | A | S | U | A | L | B | F | E | A | T | H | E | R |
| A | L | W | E | S | T | E | R | N | C | (P) | (E) | (L) | (T) | (F) |
| C | O | A | T | B | A | L | A | C | L | A | V | A | H | L |
| I | C | A | B | N | U | S | E | O | H | R | S | A | E | O |
| T | H | A | I | E | C | S | P | R | E | L | B | M | A | G |
| U | E | E | R | O | S | P | I | T | L | N | E | A | D | N |
| A | F | C | T | O | Y | A | A | N | M | O | D | N | W | I |
| N | L | E | R | C | D | O | B | B | E | I | A | A | E | H |
| S | A | Y | N | O | B | E | R | E | T | S | H | P | A | S |
| M | T | A | B | O | W | E | F | I | C | A | S | A | R | I |
| R | F | R | W | R | T | N | F | N | O | C | P | R | S | F |
| A | E | L | A | O | E | T | I | W | L | C | A | T | T | A |
| W | E | T | N | P | U | D | P | A | O | O | C | Y | R | B |
| R | S | T | R | O | P | S | A | C | R | O | L | I | A | S |
| R | I | B | B | O | N | C | I | S | S | A | L | C | W | K |

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Accessory, Ascot, Balalaika, Baseball, Beanie, Beret, Boater, Bowler, Breton, Business, Caps, Casual, Classic, Cloche, Colors, Crown, Derby, Fancy, Feather, Fedora, Felt, Fishing, Flat, Floppy, Gambler, Golf, Hats, Headwear, Helmet, Nautical, Occasion, Outfit, Panama, Party, Rain, Retro, Ribbon, Sailor, Shade, Sports, Strap, Straw, Team, Warm, Western, Wool

Yesterday's Answer: Conservation

Treasures 13 through 34 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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RFP19-CHCC/BUSINESS OFFICE-008

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 4, 2019 TIME: 09:00AM

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BUSINESS OFFICE
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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP19-CHCC/H.O.M.E VISITING-006

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 1, 2019 TIME: 09:00AM

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Mickelson finishes strong at Pebble Beach

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Phil Mickelson is closing in on three decades on the PGA Tour and a half-century on Earth, and he still feels his best golf is good enough.

He was at his best at Pebble Beach, and no one had a chance.

A Monday finish brought on by rain and a freak hail storm was only a minor inconvenience for the 48-year-old Mickelson. He played two holes just as well as the previous 16 and polished off his bogey-free final round with one last birdie for a 7-under 65 and a three-shot victory over Paul Casey in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

Mickelson won at Pebble Beach for the fifth time, matching the record set by Mark O'Meara. He has gone 28 years since his first PGA Tour victory and his 44th, and he joined Tiger Woods as the only players to surpass \$90 million in career earnings.

"It's a lot more work and effort to play at this level," Mickelson said. "And I have believed for some time that if I play at my best, it will be good enough to win tournaments. The challenge is getting myself to play my best. It's a lot more work off the course, it's more time in the gym, it's more time eating, it's more time focusing, it's all these things that go into it."

"And so it's gratifying to see the results and to finish it off the way I did."

Making it even more special is Pebble Beach, where he made his pro debut at the U.S. Open in 1992, where he won the first of his five titles in another Monday finish in 1998, this one in August because of rain. It's where his grandfather, Al Santos, was among the first caddies when the course opened in 1919, and Mickelson still uses as a



AP
Phil Mickelson poses with his trophy on the 18th green of the Pebble Beach Golf Links after winning the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am golf tournament Monday, Feb. 11, 2019, in Pebble Beach, Calif.

of at least two shots on the PGA Tour and failed to win. The other three times he was 2-over par or worse in the final round. This time, he closed with a 71 and lost to Mickelson's 65, which matched the low score of the final round.

"A phenomenal round of golf," Casey said.

Mickelson's longest putt for par was 4 feet. He played the final 26 holes in cold, damp and windy weather without a bogey.

How it bodes for the rest of the year—particularly in June when the U.S. Open returns to Pebble Beach—was of little concern to Mickelson. The U.S. Open remains the final piece of the career Grand Slam for Mickelson, who already holds the record with six runner-up finishes. He finished three shots behind Graeme McDowell in 2010, the last U.S. Open at Pebble.

And while the fairway lines already have been cut much tighter at Pebble, the conditions were so soft that balls plugged in the fairway when they landed and greens easily held shots even from the rough.

"It's nothing like the course we'll see," Mickelson said. "I'll deal with that in six months."

Mickelson lives for the moment. He says he had as much fun winning at Pebble Beach as when he finished one shot behind in the Desert Classic three weeks ago.

It's the thrill of competition. And even at 48, that never gets old.

marker the 1900 silver dollar his grandfather kept in his pocket to remind him he was not poor.

There was plenty of sunlight for the Monday morning finish, just no drama.

Mickelson, who started the final round three shots behind, never came close to a bogey and built a three-shot lead through 16 holes on Sunday night when it was too dark to finish, no matter how hard he lobbied to keep going.

The final round Sunday had been delayed at the start by

one hour because of rain, and then sunshine quickly gave way to hail that covered the greens in a sheet of white and led to a two-hour delay.

Mickelson said he could "see just fine" even after sunset, knowing darkness falls quickly on the Monterey Peninsula. Casey could barely see the 3 feet of grass between his ball and the cup on the 16th hole and said there was no way to complete two holes in six minutes. Mickelson was

on the 17th tee, shaking his head when he heard the siren to stop play.

On Monday morning, he had a change of heart and said he thanked Casey for standing his ground.

"Paul made the tough call, but it was the right decision in that he protected himself and myself for the competition," Mickelson said. "I just get in my own little bubble and I don't see the big picture."

It worked out well in the end.

Mickelson finished at 19-under 268. Casey needed Mickelson to make a big blunder on the two closing holes, and there was little chance of that. Casey at least birdied the 18th for a 71 to finish alone in second, the difference of \$152,000.

He also won the Pro-Am with Don Collieran, the chief sales officer for FedEx.

But the final day, and all week, was about the ageless Mickelson.

This was the fourth time that Casey had a 54-hole lead



Bryce Harper, Manny Machado, Craig Kimbrel and Dallas Keuchel won't be around when the bat and ball bags are opened at spring training throughout Florida and Arizona this week.

They are among the dozens of free agents still looking for jobs, joined by Mike Moustakas, Marwin Gonzalez, Carlos Gonzalez and Gio Gonzalez.

For the second straight winter, camps are opening with many rosters in exceptional flux.

"The market will sort itself out," St. Louis Cardinals chairman Bill DeWitt Jr. said at last week's owners' meetings. "There is a long time between the end of the season and spring training, and there's maybe not so much a sense of urgency on whichever side it happens to be."

Harper, Machado, and other stars on market as camps open

Among the 164 players who exercised free agency rights at the end of last year's World Series, 84 had announced agreements on the eve of spring training. That is up from 65 of 166 at roughly the same point last season but down from 105 of 158 two years ago.

Boston added J.D. Martinez last Feb. 26 and Philadelphia brought in Jake Arrieta on March 12. All but 26 of the free agents last offseason eventually reached deals, but some with big-money contracts flopped after late starts: Yu Darvish joined the Chicago Cubs on Feb. 13, went 1-3 and didn't pitch after May 20 because of arm problems. Eric Hosmer finalized his agreement with San Diego on Feb. 19 and hit a career-worst .253

with 69 RBIs. Alex Cobb signed with Baltimore on March 26 and went 5-16.

A drawn-out negotiating process means clubs have lost time in marketing new acquisitions, which seems especially significant to a sport coming off three straight years of attendance declines. Average attendance dropped below 30,000 last year for the first time since 2003.

"We want players signed, particularly star players. I wish they were signed and ready to go," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said Friday. "We got another week before they have to report. I'm really hopeful that it's going to get resolved during that period of time."

Oakland takes the field first, starting workouts Monday in

Mesa, Arizona. Seattle follows Tuesday in Peoria, Arizona, with both teams getting early starts because they open the season in Tokyo on March 20-21, a week before other teams get underway. Every other club launches practice Wednesday or Thursday except for Atlanta, which waits until Saturday.

Six new managers are in charge for the second straight spring training and five of them are big league rookie skippers for the second straight year. Rocco Baldelli (Minnesota), David Bell (Cincinnati), Brandon Hyde (Baltimore), Charlie Montoyo (Toronto) and Chris Woodward (Texas) are first-timers running a big league dugout, joined by the Los Angeles Angels' Brad

Ausmus, Detroit's manager from 2014-17.

One of last year's rookie managers was Alex Cora, who led Boston to its fourth World Series title in 15 seasons. The Red Sox hope to become the first team to win consecutive titles since the 1998-2000 New York Yankees.

"Repeating is tough," Cora said. "It starts with the players. People are going to talk about hangovers and all that and the banquet circuit. It's part of it. But they've been disciplined enough."

New baseball operations heads are in charge of three teams: Mike Elias (Baltimore), Farhan Zaidi (San Francisco) and Brodie Van Wagenen (New York Mets).

Among the major trades

of the offseason, Philadelphia obtained catcher J.T. Realmuto from Miami, St. Louis got first baseman Paul Goldschmidt from Arizona and the New York Mets got second baseman Robinson Cano and closer Edwin Diaz from Seattle. In the free-agent market thus far, Washington added left-hander Patrick Corbin and the Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder A.J. Pollock, Atlanta got third baseman Josh Donaldson and Colorado picked up second baseman Daniel Murphy.

By March 28, when most teams open, many rosters will look significantly different. The Mets and Phillies have noticeably bolstered theirs. Others chose rebuilding and appear to have little chance to reach the postseason: Baltimore, Cincinnati, Kansas City, Miami, Seattle and Toronto.

Westbrook sets new triple-double record



OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Chalk up another triple-double record for Russell Westbrook.

Westbrook set an NBA record with his 10th straight triple-double, Paul George scored 47 points, and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Portland Trail Blazers 120-111 on Monday night.

Westbrook broke a tie with Wilt Chamberlain, who had nine straight triple-doubles in 1968, by finishing with 21 points, 14 rebounds and 11 assists. Westbrook already was the only person to average a triple-double in consecutive seasons, and he set the single-season record for triple-doubles with 42 in 2016-17.

He downplayed this record while still showing respect for Chamberlain.

"I just go play the game the right way," he said. "It's what I do. Go out and compete every night and leave it on the floor, and whatever happens, happens. I'm very, very blessed to be able to go out and play, and I don't take it for granted."

Westbrook clinched the record on an assist to George for a 3-pointer with 3:52 remaining in the fourth quarter.

"I thought he had it already," George joked. "Usually, Russ has that by the first quarter. I didn't know it was that close."

It was Westbrook's 23rd triple-double of the season and the 127th of his career. Most important to the Thunder, the team has a 9-1 record during his triple-double run.

"I do know the most important thing for him is to win," Thunder coach Billy Donovan said. "That's what he's about. He wants to win. I think a lot of the things he does that he gets attention for in terms of the triple-doubles are things that impact winning for our team."

Cavaliers 107, Knicks 104

The New York Knicks' franchise-record 17th straight loss might have been the toughest one to take.

The Knicks erased a 17-point deficit in the second half and had several chances to take the lead or tie the game in the final minute before falling to Cleveland on Monday night.

"It's incredibly hard," said guard Dennis Smith Jr. "No one wants to lose, especially 17 in a row. Tonight would've been major for us if we'd have pulled it out."

Collin Sexton, who led Cleveland with 20 points, hit two free throws with 17 seconds remaining to put the Cavaliers up by three.

John Jenkins missed a 3-pointer from the right corner, but Smith grabbed the



rebound and dribbled to the left corner. He also missed a 3-pointer and Larry Nance Jr. tapped the rebound to mid-court as time ran out.

Raptors 127, Nets 125

Kawhi Leonard banked home the tiebreaking basket with 4.2 seconds remaining and Toronto edged Brooklyn.

Leonard scored 30 points, Serge Ibaka had 18 points and 12 rebounds and Pascal Siakam scored 17 for the Raptors, who have won eight

straight home meetings with the Nets.

Raptors center Marc Gasol scored 16 points, 11 in the fourth quarter, in his home debut after being acquired in last Thursday's trade with Memphis.

D'Angelo Russell scored 28 points and had a career-high 15 assists for Brooklyn.

Bucks 112, Bulls 99

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 29 points and had 17 rebounds, Eric Bledsoe added 19 points and Milwaukee out-

lasted pesky Chicago.

Malcolm Brogdon added 17 points and Khris Middleton had 16 to help league-leading Milwaukee win for the seventh time in eight games and improve to 13-2 over its last 15.

Antetokounmpo recorded his 39th double-double of the season.

Rockets 120, Mavericks 104

James Harden scored 31 points for his 30th straight 30-point game despite dealing

with a shoulder injury, leading Houston over Dallas.

Harden, who had eight rebounds and seven assists, seemed to be a bit slowed early by the strained left shoulder that he injured on Saturday against Oklahoma City, making just one of his first seven shots. But he warmed up after that and finished 9 of 23, capped by his sixth 3-pointer with less than a minute left to put him over 30 and keep the streak going. Fans chanted "MVP! MVP!" after he sunk

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) blocks a shot by Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, left, in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Monday, Feb. 11, 2019.

the step back over Dorian Finney-Smith.

He's now just one game from tying Wilt Chamberlain for the second-longest streak of 30-point games in NBA history. Chamberlain also holds the top 30-point game streak with 65 in a row.

Nuggets 103, Heat 87

Denver snapped a three-game skid by beating Miami behind 23 points and 12 rebounds from Nikola Jokic and 20 points from Malik Beasley.

The Nuggets swept the season series from the Heat for the first time since 2008-09 and improved to 18-1 when holding opponents under 100 points.

This marked the first time they did that since a 105-99 win at New Orleans on Jan. 30.

Denver pulled away in the third quarter to avoid matching a season-worst four-game skid.

Pistons 121, Wizards 112

Andre Drummond had 32 points and 17 rebounds, and Detroit extended its winning streak to four with a victory over Washington.

Blake Griffin had 20 of his 31 points in the first half for the Pistons, who haven't lost since blowing a 25-point lead in a home defeat against the Los Angeles Clippers on Feb. 2. Detroit began Monday tied with Miami for the last playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Pacers 99, Hornets 90

Myles Turner scored 16 points and Thaddeus Young added 11 points and eight rebounds to help Indiana hold on to beat Charlotte.

The Pacers have won six straight—all without two-time All-Star guard Victor Oladipo, who will miss the rest of the season with an injured right knee.

Kemba Walker scored 26 of his 34 points in the second half when the Hornets stormed back from a 16-point halftime deficit.

Timberwolves 130, Clippers 120

Derrick Rose and Jeff Teague gave a beleaguered backcourt a needed boost and lifted Minnesota over Los Angeles.

Rose scored 22 points and Teague added 19 for the Timberwolves, who played without the ill Andrew Wiggins. Rose and Teague both have missed significant time with injuries recently.

Simmons-Johnson meeting request subject for probe

The NBA is going to investigate whether league rules were broken when Philadelphia's Ben Simmons inquired about meeting with Los Angeles Lakers president Magic Johnson for playing tips.

League spokesman Mike Bass said Monday that the NBA will look at the matter. Johnson revealed over the weekend that Simmons expressed a desire to meet, through an intermediary, and indicated that he would be willing to partake in such a session with the 76ers' starting point guard if all parties involved granted permission.

76ers general manager Elton Brand, however, told Philadelphia radio station WPEN that when the request was made about a month ago, he declined. Brand said it was presented by members of Simmons' inner circle as a way last season's rookie of

the year could raise his game by learning from various greats, and Johnson's name was on their list.

Brand also told the radio station that Lakers general manager Rob Pelinka asked if such a meeting could take place.

"Rob Pelinka called me and said 'Hey, we're hearing Ben wants to talk to Hall of Famers, championship-level players, and Magic's on the list. We need authorization for him to meet up,'" Brand told the radio station. "And I said 'No.' This is over a month ago, so I said no. ... We didn't sign off on whatever they're talking about."

The Lakers responded Monday by saying the notion of Simmons meeting with Johnson was first raised in November in an email. The Lakers also confirmed that Pelinka reached out to Brand.

"That was the end of the

matter," the Lakers said in a statement.

Johnson said Sunday that when Simmons reached out in an indirect way about getting together, he responded by saying that the NBA, the 76ers and the Lakers would all have to sign off on such a meeting before one could be scheduled.

"If everybody doesn't sign off, then we can't get together," Johnson said.

Brand told the station that he may be willing to permit the meeting if he was present.

The NBA is taking tampering concerns particularly seriously of late, and the Lakers have been on the league's radar before. They were fined \$50,000 last year when Johnson commented to ESPN about Milwaukee star Giannis Antetokounmpo. And in 2017, the Lakers were fined \$500,000 when the league found Pelinka had been

communicating with Paul George's agent while George was with the Indiana Pacers.

Like Simmons, Johnson was bigger-than-most point guard. Johnson is 6-foot-9, Simmons is listed at 6-10.

"I love his game. I love his vision," Johnson said Sunday. "I love also, too, in terms of basketball IQ ... he's very high basketball IQ. And look at him now. The East better watch out."

Said Simmons, when asked later Sunday about Johnson: "To learn from somebody like that would be huge."

Brand didn't sound worried that Simmons has any desire to change teams soon.

"He's really happy here in Philadelphia," Brand told the radio station.

Simmons is represented by Rich Paul, the agent that also represents Lakers star LeBron James, among others.

Kyler Murray chooses NFL over baseball and A's



MESA, Ariz. (AP)—When Kyler Murray won the Heisman Trophy at Oklahoma last season, the Oakland Athletics knew there was a chance he might chose football over baseball.

That is exactly what happened.

On the day the A's started spring training workouts, Murray said he will pursue a career in the NFL.

"I am firmly and fully committing my life and time to becoming an NFL quarterback," Murray tweeted. "Football has been my love and passion my entire life. I was raised to play QB, and I very much look forward to dedicating 100 percent of myself to being the best QB possible and winning NFL championships. I have started an extensive training program to further prepare myself for upcoming workouts and interviews. I eagerly await the opportunity to continue to prove to



NFL decision makers that I am the franchise QB in this draft."

Murray passed for 4,361 yards and 42 touchdowns last season as the Sooners landed a second straight College Football Playoff berth. He ran for 1,001 yards and another 12 scores, posting the second-best passer efficiency rating in Bowl Subdivision history.

He declared himself eligible for April's NFL draft last month. He is not a prototypical NFL quarterback at just 5-foot-10 and 195 pounds, but

his skills make him an intriguing option.

The A's thought so, too.

Murray was the ninth overall pick in last June's baseball amateur draft, and the outfielder agreed to a minor league contract with Oakland for a \$4.66 million signing bonus. The deal called for him to receive \$1.5 million after approval last summer by Major League Baseball and \$3.16 million on March 1. Murray must return six-sevenths of the money he received, or \$1,285,714. While there is a provision for a team to get an extra draft pick in the following draft if it fails to sign a player selected prior to the

AP
In this Saturday, Nov. 17, 2018 file photo, Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray (1) before the start of an NCAA college football game against Kansas in Norman, Okla.

fourth round, there is no such provision for a player who signed and then decided not to play.

Oakland had a locker with a No. 73 jersey waiting for Murray at its facility in suburban Phoenix.

"We took the best athlete on the board and who we thought was probably the best baseball player on the board, too," Athletics general manager David Forst said. "We've known all along this was a possibility. We knew he had a great option in the NFL, so we've known for a while that there was a chance this was going to happen."

Murray showed off his skills taking batting practice at the Coliseum in an A's uniform back in June, greeted by "WELCOME TO OAKLAND" on the big scoreboard with his photo. That was before he led the Sooners to the Big 12 Conference title behind his blazing speed and pinpoint throws.

No. 1 Osaka splits with coach 2 weeks after 2nd major title

NEW YORK (AP)—Naomi Osaka surprisingly split from coach Sascha Bajin, a little more than two weeks after she won the Australian Open for a second consecutive Grand Slam title and moved to No. 1 in the WTA rankings.

"Hey everyone, I will no longer be working together with Sascha," Osaka posted on Twitter on Monday. "I thank him for his work and wish him all the best in the future."

Osaka's agent confirmed to The Associated Press that Osaka would no longer be working with Bajin, the 2018 WTA Coach of the Year, but said there would be no further comment.

Less than a half-hour after Osaka's tweet, Bajin responded to her on Twitter. He thanked her and wrote: "I wish you nothing but the best as well. What a ride that was. Thank you for letting me be part of this."

Osaka hired Bajin before the 2018 season. He previously worked with Serena Williams, Victoria Azarenka and Caroline Wozniacki.

Osaka withdrew from this week's Qatar Open, citing a back injury.

The 21-year-old beat Petra Kvitová in three sets in the Australian Open final on Jan. 26.

That added to her championship at the U.S. Open last September, when she defeated Serena Williams in straight sets.

Those back-to-back victories made Osaka the first woman to win two major championships in a row since Williams picked up four straight in 2014-15.

Osaka became the youngest woman to make her debut at No. 1 since Wozniacki at 20 in 2010 and the first tennis player from Asia to reach the top of the women's or men's tennis rankings.

CCOPSA

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ly, having more schools playing each other is a win-win situation for all participants because it allows for greater competition and more games in the season."

Blanco added that they also extended an invitation to Marianas High School, but the Dolphins are unable to join at this time. The league chair is hopeful that they will be able to finalize future collaborations with MHS next season.

"To be fair, we did offer all the public schools a chance to play, but MHS opted out," Blanco said. "Next year, we hope to return to a normal schedule and hopefully we can find a way to have all schools participating again during the same time. We look forward to working with our public school partners at PSS."

Matches in the varsity league will be played at the various school courts. However, since Super Typhoon Yutu damaged MCS and SSHS' courts, the

Knights and Manta Rays will be utilizing the Koblerville Gymnasium for the duration of the season.

"We needed to find alternate venues for MCS and SSHS to have their home games. Fortunately, it appears to have worked so far," Blanco said. "Through some schedule shuffling, MCS and SSHS are able to share the Koblerville Gymnasium."

Referees wanted; will be paid

Meanwhile, the league is looking for referees that will officiate next week's matches.

Referees will be paid \$20 per game. League matches are scheduled three to four times a week with the first game at 3:30pm and the second at 4:30pm. Interested referees must attend a meeting this Friday at 4pm at the MCS faculty lounge and undergo training sessions that will be conducted by Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's Elias Rangamar.

For more information, call 287-9687.

TanHoldings, TSL Foundation sponsor Tagaman Triathlon



TanHoldings and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation are on board, as they join the growing list of supporters of the 30th Tagaman Triathlon.

According to Triathlon Association of the CNMI president Ricky Castro, TanHoldings is among the platinum sponsors of this year's Tagaman and has donated \$2,000 worth of T-shirts that will be used in the March 30 race. The in-kind donation was turned over yesterday in a brief ceremony attended by TanHoldings senior vice president Eli Arago, TSL Foundation admin officer Mel Naputi, and TRAC members and officers.

Meanwhile, over 100



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TanHoldings senior vice president Eli Arago, fifth left, joins Triathlon Association of the CNMI officials and members for a group photo during the donation turnover ceremony yesterday for the March 30 race.

have signed up for next month's event.

The two-kilometer swim, 60K bike, and 15K race that

will start and end at Kilili Beach has lured 108 individual participants and five teams.

Registration is ongoing with fees of \$150 for individuals and \$240 for team. Signup is only until March 27.

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Canberra Challenger in Australia last month, dropping his opening round matches in both the singles and doubles events.

The former Pacific Oceania Davis Cup Team member then quickly made up for his early exit in his first tournament of the season by prevailing in the Claremont Club Pro Classic that ran from Feb. 4 to 10 at the Claremont Club outdoor hard courts. Sinclair was seeded first in the tournament and

eased his way to the second round after eliminating U.S. qualifier, 6-2, 6-3.

Up next for Sinclair was another U.S. bet in Tyler Lu and the former also took only two sets to win the game, 6-3, 6-3. Then for the third straight time, the Commonwealth player was paired against a U.S. entry in George Goldhoff and eked out a 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 triumph to advance to the semifinals. In the Final Four, Sinclair continued his slaying of U.S. players after downing Henry Craig, 6-4, 6-2, to set up a final show-

down against Poullain.

With his title conquest in the Claremont Club Pro Classic, Sinclair is expected to climb up the rankings. The CNMI bet us currently ranked No. 129 in the ITF World Tennis (singles) and No. 484 in the ATP.

Meanwhile, Sinclair is now in Arizona to compete in the Westward Look Pro Tennis Classic at the Westward Look Grand Resort and Spa in Tucson. He is seeded No. 3 in the \$15,000 pro tournament and will collide against Dominican Republic's Jessie Olivares in the first round today.

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we are at in our preparation for the competition in Samoa," Iakopo said during the Northern Marianas Sports Association monthly meeting last Thursday at the American Red Cross-CNMI Chapter office at the Airport Road.

Next month's match versus Guam players will be the CNMI's second, as the two squads collided in a series of exhibition games in June last year. Interestingly, Guam is not listed among the nations competing in this year's Pa-

cific Games in Apia, while the CNMI joins the host nation, American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Wallis and Futuna in the rugby 7s field. The competition will be held on July 12 and 13 at the Apia Park Stadium.

Flag rugby for kids

Meanwhile, the Northern Marianas Rugby Union will be holding a flag rugby event for the first time.

The series of matches will

also take place at the CPA Airport Field on March 16 and will feature students in the first to eighth grade level, according to Iakopo.

"We are excited for this flag rugby because we will be having young students playing at the field. We've been promoting flag rugby on island through the help of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and we also donated equipment to some schools," Iakopo.

"We hope that this flag rugby is something that we could do for our youth on a regular basis," he added.

2019 SSC Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Colin Thompson gets ready to move out of the waters off Kanoa Resort during last Saturday's 2019 Saipan Swim Club Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim.



David Boyer heads out of the water to complete the 2, 250-meter race.



Sophia Gauran, left, and Jinju Thompson are in a close race in the women's division's 2, 250m event.



Robert Torres takes his time getting out of the water.



Carlo Canepa rushes out of the water.



Janet King runs out of the water to complete the one-loop course.



Saipan Swim Club members chat after cooling down in the waters off Kanoa Resort.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI player wins first pro title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Colin Sinclair has repaid the Grand Slam Development Fund's faith in him early after clinching the singles championship in the \$15,000 Claremont Club Pro Classic in California.

Sinclair ruled the 32-player field, besting pros from the U.S., China, Brazil, Japan, Ireland, Canada, Dominican Republic, Greece, France, Mexico, and Sweden to win his first ITF World Tennis Tour title. The 24-year-old secured the win following a 6-3, 7-6 victory over Frenchman



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Colin Sinclair, seen here when he competed in the 2019 Australian Open qualifier last month, won his first pro title last Sunday after ruling the Claremont Club Pro Classic held in California.



Lucas Poullain in the finals last Sunday and his triumph came just a few months after the former Aces Tennis Academy standout received the 2019 International Player Grand Slam Grant.

Sinclair was one of the only two Pacific Oceania players (the other one was Papua New Guinea's Abigail Tere-Apisah) that were awarded with a grant from the GSDF. The financial assistance, according to Oceania Tennis Federation, will cover the players competition-related costs, with the aim of helping them to develop as professional tennis players and compete in Grand Slam tournaments.

After getting the nod of GSDF, which is under the management of the International Tennis Federation, this year, Sinclair played in the

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CNMI rugby team to challenge Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI National Rugby Team's preparations for the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa continue, as the squad is scheduled to play against the Guam Rugby Club in an exhibition game next month.

Northern Marianas Rugby

Union president and team captain Stanley Iakopo said the visiting club is among the top rugby groups in Guam and has players who are also on the island's national squad. The CNMI vs. Guam game will be played on March 16 at the CPA Airport Field.

"We are inviting the com-



munity to come out at the Airport Field and support both teams, especially our national team. Our players are busy getting ready for the Pacific Games and the match against Guam will definitely give our squad the opportunity to gauge where

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A CNMI player tries to avoid being tackled by a Guam defender during an exhibition game at the CPA Airport Field last year.

CCOPSA caging opens Feb. 19, draws 13 teams

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

The 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Varsity Basketball League will kick off on Feb. 19 and will feature 13 squads.

In the boys division, Mount Carmel School and Agape Christian School will be fielding two teams each and they will play against Saipan International School, Grace Christian Academy, and two public schools—Kagman High School and Saipan Southern High School.

Saipan Southern will also compete in the girls division, which has two squads from Mt. Carmel and one each from Agape and GCA.

This is the second consecutive year that public schools

will be participating in the CCOPSA varsity caging and league committee chair John Blanco is looking forward to the new layers of competition that KHS and SSHS will add to the league.



"We want to continue to give the CCOPSA [private school] members the chance to play other schools outside of our association," Blanco said. "Ultimate-

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Mt. Carmel School's Kelvin Cepeda, center, drives against Grace Christian Academy's Kevin Song, left, and Do Jin Choi during last season's finale in the CCOPSA caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The league's new season will start on Feb. 19.